



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

"The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow."

Solar eclipse buzz on Wilkes University campus

By Emma Broda

News Staff Writer

On April 8, people across the world and students and faculty on Wilkes' campus were able to experience a solar eclipse.

The eclipse passed through Mexico first before reaching the United States, beginning in Texas. The eclipse could be viewed at full totality in northern parts of states on the east coast, and many people traveled to these areas to see the eclipse fully.

One Wilkes student, Orlando Carannante, a senior history major, and some of his friends traveled six hours to Buffalo to see the eclipse in full totality. The location they were viewing from was a popular location for many.

"There were a lot of people. We were at an eclipse festival so there were food trucks and music and people sitting all around," Carannante said.

Carannante also shared that the experience was worth the drive and he would "do it again in a heartbeat."

"We had a pretty good view of the eclipse," said Carannante. "It was a little cloudy but you could still see everything. The best part was when the eclipse hit totality it went from daytime to nighttime in a few seconds, all the street lights turned

on it was really cool."

While the view from Wilkes-Barre was not directly within the path of totality like Buffalo was, students and faculty gathered on campus to catch a glimpse of the eclipse.

The weather was cloudy; however, students were still able to see a partial view of the event and experience the sky darkening as the eclipse passed.

Kamea Paresa, sophomore mathematics major, viewed the eclipse on campus.

"While it was cloudy, we were able to see through some clear areas between the clouds," said Paresa. "It felt rewarding to see when it cleared up a little, because I got to see this super cool event."

Paresa also shared other thoughts she had about the eclipse.

"I think that in the future, it would be cool to travel to an area with full totality and share the experience with my loved ones."

Chris Kopiak, a sophomore mathematics major, also watched the eclipse from campus.

Kopiak said, "it was so totally great" and agreed that he would also travel to see the eclipse full totality path in the future.



The Beacon/Emma Broda

Kamea Paresa, a sophomore mathematics major, uses her eclipse glasses to view the eclipse on the Fenner Quadrangle.

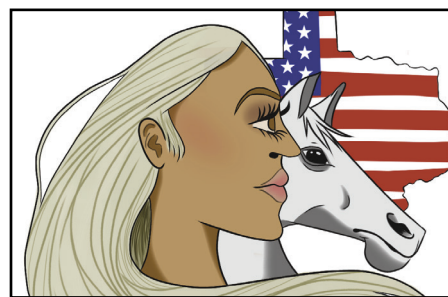
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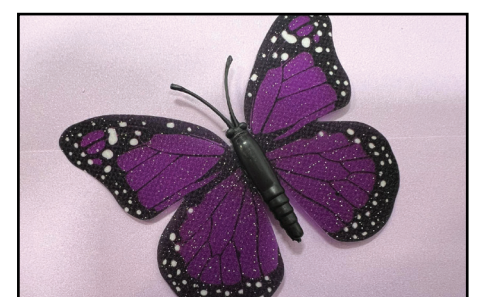
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News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor Amanda Montgomery: Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu

Student Government notes: April 10 weekly meeting

By Kayla Bicskei
Contributing Writer

Student Government held its tenth weekly meeting of the Spring 2024 semester on April 10. This week's meeting addressed funding requests and club reports. SG has a current budget of \$6,934.

WEBS, We're Empowered by Science, began the meeting's agenda with their week one of two for their funding request. WEBS Club holds its annual Summer Science Camp for 7th-12th grade students. This summer, the camp will have students participate in STEM activities, such as addressing scientific questions and working with laboratory equipment, and the camp will now include boys in enrollment instead of only girls. The club is requesting \$2,750 and will return next week for week two of two for their funding request.

ASME returned this meeting for week two of two for their funding request. ASME is holding its 17th Annual Car Show with an anticipated 200 cars in attendance and current 26 registered cars. Last year, the club donated \$1,915

of the car show's profits to Ruth's Place and will be donating 50% of this year's proceeds to the STAAR Ovarian Cancer Foundation. The club requested \$4,000 for a mobile dynamometer. SG voted to approve an allocation of \$2,000.

Lambda Kappa Sigma also returned this week for week two of two for their funding request. LKS is a professional pharmacy fraternity for women that strives to provide lifelong opportunities for women in pharmacy. LKS requested \$3,111 to help fund a six-member trip to their 2024 conference. SG voted to approve an allocation of \$1,200.

Kappa Psi continued the meeting's agenda with week two of two for their funding request. Kappa Psi is another professional pharmaceutical fraternity that is attending this year's Northeast Province Conference and Grand Council Convention, two conventions that Kappa Psi has attended and been awarded by. Kappa Psi requested funding of \$10,434. SG voted to approve an allocation of \$1,200.

Beginning the club report portion of the meeting, the Education Club presented its monthly meetings and

activities, such as club day, bandana training and the Dot Musical. Additionally, the club demonstrated its community service in events such as the Wilkes Trunk or Treat and Block Party. SG voted to approve the club report.

Friends of Panama continued the club report portion of the meeting. The club presented its cultural events, such as its Showcase of Panama event and Club Day participation. The club has been meeting biweekly, but, as the club members announced, it will discontinue its meetings and status because Wilkes has not welcomed any more Panamanians into the college. SG voted to approve the club report.

GSA presented its club report next. GSA demonstrated participation in various events, such as the Women's and Gender Studies Conference, Transgender Day of Visibility, and various other activities, such as Gays and Media Collaboration and Rainbow Bingo. GSA expressed its wish to create a safe space for all students and extended its invitation to all students and faculty. SG voted to approve the report.

UNICEF was next to present its

club report. The club presented its participation in limited activities, such as Barbie Night and their upcoming red sand project, as they require approval from its larger organization for any events. The club showed its fundraising through its Trick or Treat fundraiser. SG voted to approve the report.

Wrapping up the club report portion of the meeting, the Cheerleading Club presented its club report. The club reported their meetings as being twice per week during Wilkes football and basketball seasons. The club also demonstrated its participation in fundraising and volunteering through its breast cancer awareness shirt sale, bake sale and suicide awareness walk. SG voted to approve the report.

SG will meet again on April 17.

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Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

Apply to the Honors Program

Current first-year students who have a GPA of 3.5 or higher are invited to apply to the Honors Program. Applications close April 15.

Fill out the application using this link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc83nxWLJuGQLrQ40Aw1t8ZH9hWIUCz4KMO2q7KEAxjuVn5aA/viewform>.

Contact jennifer.mclaughlin1@wilkes.edu with questions.

Fall 2024 Parking Applications

Resident and Commuter parking

permit applications for the Fall 2024 semester are now open. The deadline for applications is Monday, July 1 at 5 p.m.

Use this link to access the applications: <https://www.wilkes.edu/campus-life/safety-security/parking/student-parking-permits.aspx>

Contact parking at 570-408-7275 with questions.

Fulbright U.S. Student Program

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program is an international program that offers opportunities for students to create connections through academic and professional advancement.

The program is funded by the U.S. Department of State, and is only available to U.S. students. Campus deadline is September 1, 2024.

Contact: gina.morrison@wilkes.edu with questions.

CPR Training

The Nursing Student Organization is interested in hosting a CPR-certification course on-campus. This will be available to all majors.

Use this link to access the interest form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScHMT_r_5hzY3rvACF6_yB0iTmYFRilxwxCNqAnHsl-ecrv_iA/

Upcoming Events:

April
20 - Downtown Establishment Tour
20 - Dylan Scott Concert
26 - GSA Drag Show

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu

Wilkes University makes waves at Model United Nations

By Morgan Steiner
Staff Writer

In the first week of April, students in Dr. Andy Miller's PS-341: Model UN course traveled to New York City to participate in the National Model United Nations Conference. For one week, students participated in simulated UN sessions, writing resolutions and collaborating with students from other universities on draft resolutions.

The real United Nations is made up of 193 Member States and two Observer States. All states have the power to speak, and negotiate, but only Member States may sponsor a resolution and vote on measures. The two Observer States are the Holy See and Palestine.

States, be they observers or members, serve on various committees with the goal of creating and implementing global policy relevant to the topic of the committee. At Model UN, universities take up the mantle of a specific delegation, role-playing as the country and attempting to write resolutions that the real country would create. At the end of the week, resolutions are voted on and adopted by the entire body.

Model UN is a Wilkes University tradition, and Wilkes is one of the universities that has been attending for the

longest amount of time.

"It's a really good experience for students to learn the perspective of the country we are representing and the United Nations," Miller said. "It shows them how to negotiate and work with others, and they get to meet people from all over the world, since there are around 5,000 students, and half of them are from outside the U.S."

This year, Wilkes University represented the Holy See, better known as Vatican City. "I try to have a different experience for students every year and the Holy See is really unique," Miller explained. "It's an Observer, but relatively powerful behind the scenes, so it gives students a different perspective".

Junior criminology and political science student Emma Stout explained that she took the class to fulfill a major requirement. As a student in the honors portion of the class, Stout served as head delegate, which granted her extra opportunities and work.

"I had to pick up all our passes, make sure everyone was where they were supposed to be, and I took on a more observing role in order to learn from our other head delegate, Emma Guzdek," said Stout.

The week was full of "working sessions", where students would gather in their committees. After roll call, a "speaker's list" was open, where students had the

opportunity to stand in front of the room and, as their country, explain their thoughts on the issue at hand and convince others to agree to their resolution.

Marytere-Quintana Avila, a junior studying communication studies and political science, shared what the average "Working Session" looked like.

"I was in the United Nations Environment Assembly, or UNEA. I worked on the implementation of the Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework," said Avila.

Following the speaker's list, students were called to motion for one of a few options: expand or shorten the speaker's time, vote on a resolution (which was saved for the final day), or, the most common option, begin an informal session. "Informal sessions were the times that we had to actually work on a resolution. We'd gather in groups and discuss what should be done, how it should be implemented, and actually write it out. Because we were the Holy See, we couldn't sponsor certain papers, so a lot of my work was observing, sharing ideas, and ensuring the well-being of all people were considered and respected."

Each student took away something different from the Model UN experience.

Stout said, "I loved the experience of

being able to not only take part in this conference, but also see the city for a whole week."

Even faculty take something away.

"Seeing students take what they learned, negotiate, and work with other delegations towards Model UN Resolutions is my favorite part," Miller said

For many, the best part of the conference was the final day: a closing ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

"It was very inspirational, being able to sit in the seats where ambassadors from all over the world work on implementing legislation," said Quintana-Avila. That, and being able to share that space with all the other students there."

Wilkes will not know which state they will be representing in Spring 2025.

Miller explained that universities submit a "top ten" list in November, and hear back from the conference before the start of the new year. Stout said that, no matter what state Wilkes will be representing she will, "definitely be back."

Anyone interested in Model UN, should sign up for PS-341 in the Spring 2025 semester.

Photos Courtesy of Dr. Andy Miller



Back Left to Back Right: Christian Blomquist, Colin Post, Morgan Steiner, Connor Frey, Sean Renz, Damien Chmielewski, Julie Schwartz, Emma Stout and Eduardo Abrego Camano. Front Left to Front Right: Vassiliki Gkroutski, Dr. Andy Miller, Archbishop Gabrielle Caccia, Marytere Quintana-Avila and Emma Guzdek.



Back Left to Back Right: Connor Frey, Damien Chmielewski Emma Stout, Emma Guzdek, Colin Post and Christian Blomquist. Front Left to Front Right: Morgan Steiner, Sean Renz, Marytere Quintana-Avila, Eduardo Abrego Camano, Julie Schwartz and Vassiliki Gkroutsi.

Dr. LaFleur Small joins Wilkes as associate provost

By Erin Kowalski

Contributing Writer

This semester, LaFleur F. Small Ph.D. joined Wilkes University as the new associate provost of academic and diversity affairs.

Starting this position Feb. 19, Dr. Small has been busy meeting new members of the Wilkes faculty and staff as well as acclimating to the area.

"There's been a lot to do, but great work so far," said Dr. Small.

Dr. Small's most recent position was vice provost of academic administration & faculty affairs and professor of public health at the University of Toledo. She also worked for 17 years before at Wright State University.

The last 20 years have been spent in Ohio, and she has recently transitioned to the Northeast Pennsylvania area.

"Wilkes exhibits a culture that focuses on academic and inclusive excellence which is very important in any sphere of higher education," said Dr. Small.

Dr. Small's new position is described as a bifurcated role in which the work that is being done in the Provost office involves academic policy, faculty, and diversity,

equity, and inclusion (DEI) matters. This includes leadership of the Office of Institutional Research, Eugene S. Farley Library and Office of Diversity Initiatives.

Dr. Small also represents the University as the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) accreditation officer. She also works with two faculty committees to assist with functions throughout the institution: the Academic Standards Committee, which deals with student academic eligibility, and the Council on Diversity, Inclusion and Equity.

Dr. Small is originally from the Caribbean. She and her family moved to the Bronx in New York City, and she is a first-generation college student who attended Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, where she completed her Bachelors of Arts in sociology. Dr. Small then attended the University of Miami and completed both her Masters of Arts in sociology and her Ph.D. in medical sociology and epidemiology.

Throughout Dr. Small's years of experience in higher education, she has worked within many areas and experienced a lot. She offers some advice for current students.

"Embrace your collegiate experience and the ability to be a part of the global community that Wilkes offers. Be open, communicate, learn and travel."

One fun fact about Dr. Small is that she loves live music and musicianship, specifically jazz, and her favorite musician is Garth Brooks. She also is a foodie who loves to try new cuisine and restaurants with her friends and family.

"Going to plays and the theatre are also very important and enriching parts of my life," said Dr. Small.

Dr. Small mentions that she has an extensive bucket list of places that she would love to travel to. Places like Croatia, Vietnam, Slovenia, Ireland, South Africa and Portugal are all places she would love to check off of the list.



Photo courtesy Dr. Small

Since joining the Wilkes community, Dr. Small has many big plans for getting herself settled in. This includes finding a new home for her and her cat Lizzo, a new cat sitter and friend for Lizzo to spend time with and exploring all that this area has to offer.

...solar eclipse cont. from page 4

Other students chose to view the eclipse from a virtual live stream from an area within the totality path.

One of these students was Emilie Protsko, a senior criminology and political science major, who watched the NASA live stream sent to students.

"It was really cool to see, I enjoyed being able to see it, even though it wasn't in person," said Protsko. "Especially since the weather was slightly cloudy on campus."

Live streams showed the eclipse from different cities that were in the totality path to allow viewers who may not be in an area with as clear of a view an opportunity to see the eclipse in real time.

Protsko agreed with others who shared that they would like to travel to see a total eclipse in the future, "I'd like to see it in the future, I think it would be really interesting to see."

Although students on campus were unable to see a total eclipse on campus, they were still able to experience this very cool and rare event.

Many Wilkes students also took advantage of live streams and traveling to experience an even clearer view of this opportunity.



Photo: The Beacon/Emma Broda

Despite the cloudy sky, students were able to get a view of the eclipse on the Wilkes University campus.

Wellness group plans events

By Erin Kowalski
News Staff Writer

Wilkes Wellness Committee has partnered with employees to offer two activities for faculty, staff, and students throughout the month of March. Bridget Guinta, executive assistant in the President's office, and Janet Cussatt, senior procurement specialist in the procurement office, will be leading the two wellness activities as a way of improving campus physical and mental well-being.

These spring events are the perfect space for all members of the campus community to take a break from their busy schedules and enjoy some fresh air and physical activity.

Guinta leads the dance and cardio sessions on Tuesdays at noon. These sessions will consist of cardio and stretching. No dance experience is required as the activity fits all skill levels and is open to everyone. The only requirements are athletic wear you can move around in and a positive attitude.

"I started leading these events back in 2019 before COVID," said Guinta. "I offer my time because I've taught dance before and it gives me joy and is a nice opportunity to offer to campus."

Cussatt leads the walking group on Thursdays at noon. These sessions consist of taking time to walk with the destination being entirely up to each individual's discretion. Weather permitting, the walks begin at the flagpoles in Fenner Quadrangle or can take place inside the McHale Athletic Center.

"The committee is trying to put together some things to get the campus together and to stay healthy," said Cussatt. "Physical activity is important to me and we all try our best to get up and take a break by walking."

It is important that everyone gives their body and mind a break here and there. As far as future events, there is the possibility for new activities to become offered as interest increases in specific areas. Mental and physical health go hand in hand so the addition of new activities will only benefit students further.



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CCDI & Office of Academic Success host roundtable event

By **Erin Kowalski**
News Staff Writer

The Wilkes Center of Career Development and Internships (CCDI) teamed up with the Office of Academic Success to host the "I Have No Clue" roundtable discussion in the Karambelas Media & Communication Center.

This discussion was aimed for students who need help navigating their choice in major and career path.

The discussion featured students and professionals sharing experiences, expertise and answering any questions.

Samuel Kimmel, a sophomore psychology major, is one of the career peer ambassadors and ran the event as a part of his many responsibilities in the CCDI.

An overview of his role is to give students direction when it comes to finding a major or career that fits them, preparing resumes for interviews, and who to communicate with on a professional level.

"My goal in running this event was that I wanted to help just one person have more clarity and an understanding that there are sources here to help them," said Kimmel.

There was a mix of students who attended at different stages within their academic career and that mix allowed the conversation to be relatable to more than just one group.

There were students who loved their major, those who were unsure if the major they are in is what they see themselves doing and also those who knew they were

changing or had no clue.

The discussion was meant for undeclared students and students who may be doubting whether they made the right choice in their major. There was talk about uncertainty of what to do with your major and finding them a starting point for the many careers they could pursue.

Kierstin Miller, a senior marketing

major, shared her journey through switching majors with the group.

Her story showed that although her journey was not a straight path, she was able to get to a major that was right for her.

"I came into Wilkes as a biology major with hopes of becoming a veterinarian," said Miller. "After my first semester, I realized that I not only wasn't excelling in

my courses, but I didn't enjoy what I was learning. I went undeclared and decided to look at different majors. I finally landed on majoring in marketing during the spring semester of my sophomore year, and now I will be graduating this May."

Jeanne Rabel, a senior advising coordinator in the office of academic success, attended the event to give professional advice and offer help to those students questioning their decisions.

Rabel shared her hopes for what students take away from an event such as this one.

"The event offered a chance for students to gain perspective on what it means to make a thorough, informed career decision, and they do not need to navigate the stress and enlightenment that comes with the process," said Rabel. "Not only should they trust the process and share their experiences, but they are not alone in feeling this way. There are many individuals on campus that may provide guidance and support."

Toward the end of the discussion, conversation was had about the stigma surrounding being an undeclared student and how every major provides students with the transferable skills that future employers are looking for.

The ending theme to wrap up discussion was that every career path may not be linear, but it can lead you down paths where you end up doing what you love.



Graphic: The Beacon/Amanda Montgomery

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If you are interested, contact our News Editor
Amanda Montgomery at amanda.montgomer1@wilkes.edu



Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor: Anthony.Cazun@wilkes.edu

Communication Studies student wins first place at ECA

By Cally Williams

Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer

On March 20, two Wilkes students attended the Eastern Communication Association 115th annual convention. Among these students included senior communication studies major Morgan Rich and senior communication studies major Jess Fellerman.

The students were joined by communication studies professors Drs. Kalen Churcher and Mark Stine. The conference was held from March 20-24 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Every year, students submit papers and presentations to the ECA and those chosen are invited to the conference. Many students attend and some present their papers and posters to be judged for possible awards.

This year's theme for the conference was "Currents." According to the conference website, currents, "represents our convention location on the banks of the Charles River in Cambridge while serving as a metaphor for how ideas are the currents that shape our discipline in this contemporary moment."

Morgan Rich, editor-in-chief of *The Beacon*, was chosen out of hundreds to present a poster and a panel at the convention. For the past two years, Rich was encouraged to attend by several professors.

"I finally worked up the courage to submit a paper and a poster," said Rich. "I felt extremely prepared and loved this experience. It was a wonderful testament to our professors at Wilkes."

She and 45 other students from across the country presented their posters and later attended a scholar's dinner. Rich's poster entitled "Taylor Swift and Her Use of Conceptual Metaphors to Emphasize American Ideals" won first place.

"I was up against students from Northeastern, Boston and Harvard so winning was absolutely out of this world," said Rich about her first place award.

The day after Rich found out she won first place she got to present her paper as part of a panel. She presented her slideshow and answered questions from fellow communication scholars. Rich was thrilled with her first place winning and thanked her professors.

"It was a huge showing of how amazing the communications professors at Wilkes are," said Rich.

Jess Fellerman attended the convention with Rich as not only a close friend for moral support, but a fellow communication studies scholar.

"Engaging with peers provided an invaluable opportunity to expand my understanding of the multitude of topics within the communications field," said Fellerman, explaining how much she enjoyed attending the conference.

"The highlight was the Undergraduate Scholars Conference dinner, where randomized seating facilitated networking with esteemed professionals, allowing for insightful conversations and valuable advice," said Fellerman. "Overall, the conference proved to be an exceptional platform for learning, networking, and broadening my appreciation for the expansive landscape of communication studies."

Overall, the ECA conference acted as an amazing opportunity for these students to meet like minded individuals as well as people in other communication studies fields. The convention will be held again next year from March 26-30 in Buffalo, New York.



Morgan Rich posing with the poster that won first place at ECA.



Photos Courtesy of Morgan Rich

Jess Fellerman engaging with a communication studies scholar who was presenting her poster on "The Hunger Games."



By Anthony Cazun

Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

There are many contributing factors that go into an artist's sound. Their influences, state of mind or even the world around them. There are few artists that better encapsulate this phenomenon better than Poppy. An artist that is not a chameleon, but a butterfly in a continuous cycle of re-emerging from a new sonic cocoon.

Moriah Rose Pereira began her career many years before she would embrace the "Poppy" persona. Writing songs, performing covers of various songs and having background appearances on TV shows. She would achieve her big break making strange and abstract YouTube videos under the "Poppy" name.

She and her former creative partner would create these videos to create traction to her music career, effectively creating a multi-media brand that could veer into any direction they chose. From music, to videos, to comics, to fashion, to gaming and more, Poppy would have experimented with them all.

She began with various subgenres within the pop music sphere. Her debut EP and album would both contain elements of electropop, dance-pop, bubblegum-pop etc. Despite the upbeat and cheery sound, the lyrics would often contain darker undertones, just like the unsettling videos she produced. This darkness would be elevated on subsequent EP's and her next album "Am I A Girl?" which would end on a complete genre shift, beginning with heavy, chunky distorted guitar riffs.

Album of the Week:

I Disagree - Poppy

The song was Poppy's first dip into metal music. The song would contrast between a melodic pop tune and then routinely dip back into the metal. This philosophy is seen all throughout Poppy's next record, "I Disagree." Her third LP would take this new sound to the next level. Incorporating her new metal stylings with pop flourishes.

The opening track "Concrete" would perfectly exemplify this new dichotomy Poppy will indulge in within the album. The titular track would include nu-metal esque tones, while "BLOODMONEY" would be an industrial-metal barrage, almost sounding like a wave of glitchy technology washing over the listener. "Sit / Stay" will have a electro-metal techno drive, and Bite Your Teeth provides the most hard hitting metal punches of the entire record.

The album is not without its slower, softer, more pop oriented tunes however. Songs like "Nothing I Need" and "Sick of the Sun" will take the listener through a silky smooth sonic experience, an intermission from the heart thumping riffs and percussion throughout much of the record. The album closes with "Don't Go Outside," a continuously elevating journey that has reprisal elements from the first two opening tracks.

"I Disagree" would be a hit critically, landing Poppy the first ever female solo metal artist to be nominated at the Grammy's, cementing her a contemporary metal icon.

Theater Department presents "Puffs" April 18 - 22

By Erin Kowalski

News Staff Writer

Wilkes Theatre will be presenting its next show, "Puffs," written by Matt Cox. The script is a hilarious spoof of the seven Harry Potter book series by J.K. Rowling.

The play will not focus on the main character that we all know and love, however. Rather, it will give the perspective of three potential heroes and the "Puffs." The House of Hufflepuff will finally get its moment in the spotlight.

There will be five performances on "Puffs"; April 18, 19, and 20 starting at 8 p.m. and April 21 and 22 starting at 2 p.m. The show has a faster-paced storyline and will last about two hours.

Admission is \$10 for students and seniors and \$15 for adults and can be purchased online at www.wilkes.edu/

theatre or at the Box Office starting an hour before the show time.

Anthony Kehls, a first-year communication studies major, will have his debut on opening night, as this is his first show at Wilkes. He will take on the role of Wayne and is looking forward to getting to be on stage with his friends, whom he has grown very close to throughout this experience.

"Being able to do this show with such talented people only pushes me to do my best," said Kehls. "Seeing the show come together has been such a fulfilling experience. Every actor is doing a fantastic job and it's so nice seeing everyone do what they do best."

Kehls fills us in on one particular scene that is sure to entertain the audience.

"One specific scene I'm excited to perform is definitely the battle scene," said Kehls. "It's pure chaos but it's

gorgeous."

Emily Repp, a senior nursing student, is very excited for this show, especially as a fellow Harry Potter series fan. She shares her thoughts as opening night approaches.

"I've always been a huge fan of the series and am curious how the play will go from the perspective of the Hufflepuff house," said Repp.

This play is guaranteed to give you a good laugh and shed light on the eventful years at a

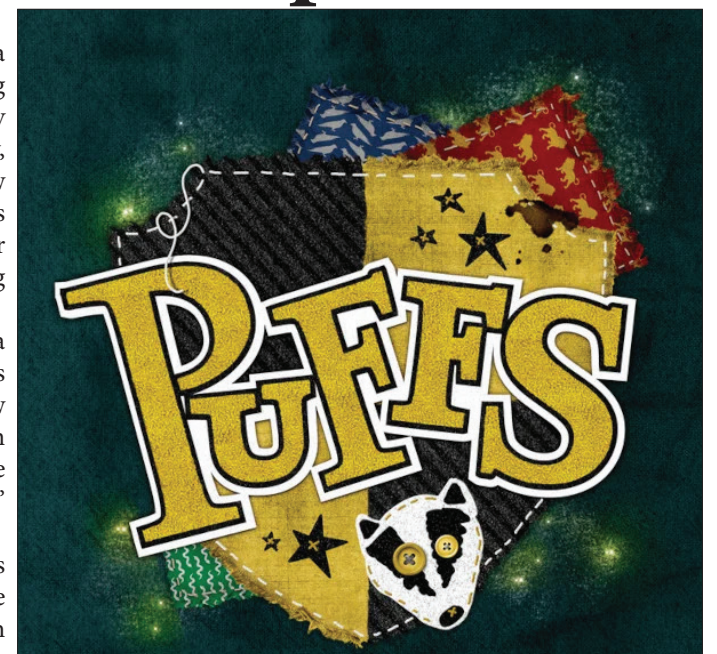


Photo courtesy of Wilkes University Theater

Wilkes University's Green Bandana Project initiative

By Emma Broda
News Staff Writer

On April 3, the Green Bandana Project held its second training session of the semester to train more students on joining their “army of advocates” to spread awareness on mental health and provide resources.

The Green Bandana Project is a suicide prevention program that was created to train university students to be someone that fellow students who may need mental health resources can approach.

This program offers a safe solution for students who may be feeling suicidal or just in need of someone to talk to.

Students who complete training receive a green bandana to attach to their backpacks as a means of signaling that they are a safe resource to approach.

The project has successfully trained

numerous students, and it is likely that there is not a place on campus where a green bandana is not visible.

Students like Morgan Andretta, junior pharmacy major, and Megan Novak, junior environmental science major, have become a part of the Green Bandana Project.

Novak shared that she “heard about the project through being an RA; we had training prior to the fall semester with Dr. Hastings and he informed us about the project,” while Andretta heard about the project through the Honors Program.

Andretta had shared that she believes the project has had a very positive impact on campus, “It’s great walking around and knowing that there are people on campus who are willing to talk if you ever are struggling or need help.”

Novak agreed saying, “I think seeing so many people having a green bandana has a positive impact. It shows how many people

care about mental health and are willing to help others if the time ever arose. It’s amazing to see people come together in the Wilkes Community to help others in need.”

Students who would like to get involved with the project should keep an eye out for training sessions in the Today at Wilkes emails. Andretta encourages students to get involved with the project,

“It’s a very low maintenance program to get involved with. If you love being there for others and helping others, this program is for you.”

Novak also recommends getting involved.


“If you are interested in joining, reach out to Dr. Hastings. He is more than willing to assist you and get you the training. If someone reached out needing help, we would offer a listening ear and give them any appropriate resources that would be

helpful for them. We carry around cards with resources for abuse, LGBTQ+ related hotlines, domestic violence, suicide and resources directly available on campus.”

Suicide prevention and mental health awareness should be a crucial part of any university campus, and the Green Bandana Project emphasises this need.

Students carry cards containing important resource information for students seeking help, and information for students who know someone needing help. The card provides information for Wilke’s Counseling Center and emergency hotlines for anyone who needs immediate help.

If you or a friend need mental health resources or help, call 570-408-4100 for the Wilkes University Counseling Center, or for an emergency call the 24/7 Crisis Support Line at 570-408-CHAT.



Wilkes University


THE BANDANA PROJECT™

A nationwide mental health awareness & suicide prevention movement

At Wilkes University, help is always available at Wilkes University Counseling Center

570-408-4100

Passan Hall on campus



The educational pamphlet students carrying the Green Bandana on their backpack will hand out to students in need. It contains important information, such as locations, resources, and numbers to call for getting help.



Morgan Andretta, junior pharmacy major, showing off her Green Bandana which is tied to the outside of her backpack where other students can see it.

Photos: The Beacon/Emma Broda

University celebrates Transgender Day of Visibility

By Cally Williams

Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff Writer

While Easter fell on March 31 this year, there was another important day that took place on this same date.

Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) is celebrated every year on March 31, honoring the transgender individuals who make up our lives and communities. This year marks 15 years of TDOV, only being founded as a national observance in 2009, while transgender people have existed for much, much longer.

TDOV was founded on March 31, 2009 by Rachel Crandall-Crocker. Crandall-Crocker is a therapist in Michigan who specializes in helping transgender patients. She founded the organization “Transgender Michigan” and is known as a key figure in raising awareness for transgender issues and celebrating transgender identities.

Before the TDOV was founded by Crandall-Crocker there was only Transgender Day of Remembrance. This day honored the deaths of transgender individuals that were murdered as acts of hate. While this day is important, there was no day celebrating and lifting up transgender people. She created TDOV to make a day for transgender individuals to be noticed for who they are.

Wilkes University celebrated this special day by raising the trans flag on the greenway.

The blue, white and pink colors soared through the air next to the other flags on campus to celebrate trans students and those in the surrounding communities. The ceremony was held on March 26, during club hours.

Along with the flag raising ceremony, the GSA held a TDOV ball that evening in Kirby Hall.

Wilkes’ Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) held the event and some members spoke at the ceremony. Moderator Helen Davis was in attendance along with many students in the GSA including speakers Jai Manning, Ozzie Priebe and Aster Rowland who together raised the transgender flag.

“TDOV is especially important now because transgender people are facing a lot of public backlash. Last year, over 600 anti-trans bills were introduced in this country. 539 anti-trans bills have already been introduced this year,” said Davis.

Aster Rowland, junior sociology major, was one of the speakers at the flag raising ceremony in the greenway.

“We live in a time where politicians and lawmakers are trying to make it seem like we do not exist and make younger transgender kids scared to be proud of who they are,” said Rowland. “Wilkes is a great place to exist as a trans person.”

Along with the flag raising, Wilkes has done numerous other things to make campus inclusive for transgender and LGBTQ+ students. Dr. Greg Cant, the university president, is also very vocal about his support for transgender individuals.

“It helps trans people feel seen,” said first-year history and political science major, Ozzie Priebe, who is a member of the GSA who spoke during the flag raising ceremony.

Morgan Steiner, GSA president and junior history, political science, international relations, and history major, also had a lot to say about TDOV.

“It is a nice way to showcase transgender voices and spread some positivity in a world that can be so dark,” said Steiner. “It is nice to hear people my age talk about what they have gone through and how, like all three of our speakers expressed, life does get better.”

Wilkes also has an extremely active GSA club that works hard to educate students and faculty on LGBTQ+ issues. Along with this, the GSA also holds many fun and engaging events for the Wilkes community and

LGBTQ+ students on campus.

The GSA hosts events such as the TDOV flag raising and a candlelight vigil for Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Wilkes also supports transgender students in several ways apart from the GSA. This includes gender neutral housing and gender neutral restrooms across campus.

There is also the Safe Space program. Faculty who have completed Safe Space Training have rainbow stickers on their doors to show that they are safe to go to and are allies.

All resident assistants have completed the safe space training as well.

“TDOV is a day to recognize and celebrate our trans community member,” said Davis.

“We want them to

that they are welcome and valued members of our Wilkes community.”

TDOV helped uplift transgender voices on campus and throughout the community.

Of course TDOV was met with some hate, but mostly love from allies and members of the LGBTQ+ community from Wilkes and the surrounding area.

Steiner added, “People might get mad or become offended but we, the LGBTQ+ community as a whole, and especially the transgender community, do not ask for much. We ask for the same kindness and respect as any other individual.”



know

Number Sudoku

Challenge your brain power with this number sudoku

Challenge your brain with some sudoku!

How to play: Fill in the missing number. Each row should have 6 different numbers, no repeats. Each column should have 6 different numbers, no repeats. Each 2x2 quadrant should have 6 numbers, no repeats.

						1		
5	6		8	3		7	2	
	2	8		4	7	3		5
1							9	
6		2	4			8		3
8	9	3	6		5	4		2
7	1				3		4	
	3		7		8	6	5	1
	8	6			4			7

Answer Key:

7			4		6	8		
1	5	6	8	7	3			
	4		3		1	7		
2		4	5	6	3	9	8	
3		8		4	2		6	
	9							1
5		3	7	4	8	2		
	2	7	3	8	6	5		
	1							

Credit for these puzzles goes to:
www.sodokutodo.com

Compiled by Morgan Rich, Editor In Chief

Morgan Rich Editor-In-Chief

Communication Studies with concentrations in Rhetorical Studies, Multimedia Journalism, Strategic Communications
Minor(s): Dance, English, Women's and Gender Studies

I never thought that when I switched my major abruptly from biology to communication studies in the summer of 2020, I would be the Editor-In-Chief of the Beacon and one of the many faces of the department. The first two years of my college career were filled with the trials and tribulations of COVID-19, which caused me to be an extremely shy college student who never wanted to get involved. However, I was encouraged to attend a Beacon meeting my sophomore year, and boy am I glad I did. The Beacon staff and Dr. Churcher welcomed an in-experienced, shy, unsure sophomore into open arms and allowed me to grow into the individual I am today. In two years, I progressed from Life, Arts, and Entertainment (LAE) staff writer, to LAE assistant editor, to managing editor, and then finally to Editor-In-Chief.

Not only did the Beacon allow me to grow my journalistic and design skills, it allowed me to bond with my peers and make friends that will last a lifetime. I quickly learned that it was not only the writing that I loved about the Beacon, but it was the people and advisors that truly made a difference in my life. Being a part of the Beacon allowed me to truly expand into being the epitome of a communication studies major: someone who is confident in communicating with others. The Beacon and its staff are what truly encouraged me to pursue a graduate degree in English following my graduation at Wilkes because I wanted to continue my love for reading, writing, editing, and creating new relationships. Being a part of the Beacon is a core part of my identity that I will always carry with me. The Beacon is not only your peers and your professors, but they become your home away from home at Wilkes. Everyone should join the Beacon because not only do you gain experience, but you also gain a family!



beacon
**SENIOR
SEND OFF**

Liz Cherinka Social Media Manager

Pharmacy Class of 2026 and
History Class of 2024

I started writing for The Beacon freshman year because I wrote for my high school newspaper and wanted to continue this passion of mine. I started off writing for LA&E and in one of my first meetings, the editor said she would be interested in publishing a craft column, so I volunteered. That is what brought about "Liz's Craft Column". The crafts that I did every week were simple for beginners and were usually cute, seasonal decorations. I loved doing them because they were a nice mental break from all of my science classes. I stopped doing the column once I started professional pharmacy school, and then transitioned to my current position. I was able to revamp our website and make it accessible for people to read our articles.

I will miss the community of The Beacon the most once I graduate. This newspaper is basically a little family who all struggles through the tight deadlines, layout design, interviews, editing pictures, and so many more. All of the hustle and bustle of this newspaper has been stressful, yet very fun and rewarding. It allowed me to expand my horizons outside of my majors and do something that I enjoyed, and just did for fun. When I first joined, I was the "odd man out" who was not a communications major, but everyone welcomed me with open arms. The staff and advisor, Dr. Churcher, are always there to help and teach you all the ins-and-outs. I would totally recommend joining The Beacon, it has been such a great experience for me!



Amanda Montgomery News Editor

Marketing + Communication Studies with a
concentration in Strategic Communications

When I first started my time at Wilkes as a marketing major, I never imagined I'd find my place within the walls of communication studies, let alone journalism. Joining the Beacon in Fall 2022, I initially tested the waters in the news section as a staff writer, while gradually immersing myself into the rhythm of reporting. By Spring 2023, I entered my new role of Assistant News Editor, and by Summer 2023, I proudly assumed my current role of News Editor. Through every article penned and edited, I rediscovered my passion for writing, and a newfound appreciation for editing.

Looking ahead to graduation, my eyes are set on a career in public relations or a related field, thanks to the skills I've acquired during my time with the Beacon, and the COM department. My advice to embrace new experiences, and seize every opportunity for growth. It's through my participation in these co-curriculars and activities outside of the classroom that brought me the best, and irreplaceable experiences, and a more diverse skill set.

Erin Kowalski News Writer

Communication Studies with concentration
in Strategic Communications
Minor: Marketing

I always said that writing just was not for me. When I first transferred into the Communication Studies major, I thought that I would have to figure something out that didn't include writing. What I didn't know was that all I needed was a little guidance and practice and what I thought wasn't for me would turn into something that I enjoyed doing. Everyone is more than happy to help you at any time and the opportunity to write stories that are important and interesting to you are endless.

One part of being a News writer for the Beacon that was my favorite part was covering different kinds of events that I may have looked over or never given much thought into attending before. I was able to meet so many new people and sit in on some very interesting conversations because I was covering that event. I am thankful that the Beacon pushed me to go out of my way to try new things and see all aspects of life on campus other than just the one I live. I have only been a part of the Beacon for a short time, but if I could go back and do things again, I would have joined a lot sooner.



Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact opinion editor: sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu.

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Want to join The Beacon? Several positions are open! Contact: kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu or morgan.rich@wilkes.edu

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Each week, The Beacon's editorial board will take a stance on a current issue.

The last month before finals is dreadful

With both spring and holiday break being long gone, all many students can think about is the end of the semester drawing near.

And with the end of the semester, comes finals week.

Since we are now currently in the final weeks of the spring semester, it seems like everyone is out to get us, specifically our professors.

With April being our last full month of school, it feels like students of all majors are overwhelmed with school work.

When it comes to finishing up our homework, studying for our exams and trying to keep up with our overall personal lives, it is not a surprise that students are stressed.

While yes, we did get two breaks, it seems like there was hardly a break at all.

With professors assigning work and exams for the Monday we came back, a number of students were forced to work over their holiday and spring breaks.

While it is normal to expect some sort of assignment over break, most students would definitely prefer the opportunity to relax and spend time with their

friends and family during their actual allotted time off.

While the over-break work is unfrotunate, it is better than piling all the work on the week after break ends.

Nonetheless, most students can agree that the entire month of April seems like it is never going to end.

With summer break being so close, students may feel unmotivated to do any school work.

And when they decide to do school work, it is often at the very last minute.

This seems to be extremely common with college students all around the world, since burn out tends to happen during this point of the semester for a lot of them.

While it is easier said than done, students of all majors must try to make time for themselves, especially during finals season approaching.

Since students are so focused on work - or focused on procrastinating - students may forget to take care of their basic human needs. This can range from forgetting to eat three meals a day, forgetting to text parents every night or just basic hygiene.

But, it is easy to fall into the trap of non-stop studying, drinking energy drinks and quickly grabbing snacks to fuel yourself during all nighters. In order to assure that you get the best grades possible during finals week, we must try to get a good night's sleep, eat properly and to take breaks when needed.

Finals season is often described as "the last round in Mario Kart," and that honestly seems like a truthful statement. From studying like there's no tomorrow, typing as many pages as your hands will allow for essays, and memorizing terms on a Quizlet, it really is one of the most stressful times of the year.

Despite all of this though, it really is worth it. Whether you are a senior or still have a few years left, you did it.

You are one step closer to your degree and achieving the career you want to pursue.

Hopefully one day, all of those sleepless nights will be a memory that we can all look back on and laugh at in the future.

Until then, good luck and finish this semester strong.

Letter to the editor policy: *The Beacon* welcomes letters to the editor from differing viewpoints. Letters must contain contact information, including name, city, state and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published but may be used for verification purposes.

All letters to the editor must be sent using one of the following methods:

Email: morgan.rich@wilkes.edu

Phone: (570) 408-5903 (Voicemail: 30 seconds or less, please.)

Mail: 84 West South Street, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18766 Attn: *The Beacon*

The Return of The Red Raven: An original story

This edition of The Beacon features two installments of “The Return of the Red Raven”.
Be sure to check out www.thewilkesbeacon.com for the final installment.

By Leah Smith
Contributing Writer

PART 12

Isabelle rushed through traffic to get to Vivian Keller’s address. She ran two red lights and nearly hit a minivan, and she couldn’t tell if it was because she was seeing red from her past or due to the stressful urgency of the present. Regardless, she needed to get to her before the mysterious killer did.

A few minutes later, Isabelle reached 136 Piper Boulevard and parked across from Vivian Keller’s home. She grabbed the pistol in her glove compartment as she slowly approached the door. She knocked three times. No response. She knocked once more.

“Ms. Keller, this is the police. You are in immediate danger and need to come with me for safety. Please open the door, ma’am,” Isabelle instructed.

Suddenly, the door opened with a creak. Isabelle steadied the pistol in her hands and aimed it right at the door.

Officer Nathan jumped when he saw the gun pointed to his face.

“Christ, Greenblatt! It’s just me!”

Isabelle lowered her weapon. “Sorry, Caulfield. Is she in there?”

Nathan’s eyes lowered to his feet as he struggled to find the words to tell her what happened. Isabelle instantly gathered what happened and sighed.

“Where’s her body?” she asked.

“In the bathroom. The killer hung her body on the curtain rod,” Nathan stated.

An emotional storm surged through Isabelle and all she did was mumble the word, “Damn.”

“Was she close to you?” Nathan asked.

“It’s... complicated,” Isabelle replied.

“I see, I remember seeing something about your dad and her a while ago and...”

Isabelle gave him a cold glare, indicating for him to stop talking.

“Yeah, sorry,” he mumbled.

“It’s fine. I’ll call this in and I’ll have forensics on this immediately.”

As Isabelle reached for the walkie in her pocket, Nathan grabbed her arm to stop her. Isabelle’s eyebrows arched.

“What are you doing, Caulfield?”

“Don’t call it in yet. I want to talk to you.”

“About what?”

“Your father, you, and this whole murder spree going on,” Nathan explained.

“It’s none of your business. Besides, why do you want to know about all of this anyway?”

“Just curious and because it just seems you’ve been too hard on your dad and yourself for what he’s put you through.”

“If you had to endure the life I had around that man, especially involving the woman hanging in that bathroom then you would understand. Now, if you excuse me, I’m done talking and I need to see my father at the hospital.” Isabelle stormed off.

Back at the hospital, Rick felt nothing but fear. Fear for his husband, fear for his daughter, fear for Vivian and fear for himself. He dreaded hearing his phone ring from an unknown number. It’s been hours and Cameron still hasn’t woken up. He kept blaming himself for everything that happened. He was sweating profusely and started running his thin hair with his fingers. The weight of this domino effect was crushing him and he couldn’t hold on anymore. How much more of this could he take? What more could this killer do to torture him to no end?

Shortly, a doctor coming back from the emergency wing approached Rick.

“Mr. Greenblatt, right?” the doctor asked.

“Y-yes, that’s me,” Rick said. His heart started to sink, bracing for the news.

“Your husband is in stable condition and is awake. He’s on a lot of antibiotics, so I’ll only allow short visiting hours for him to get used to their effects.”

“I need to see him now,” Rick stated, standing straight up from his chair.

“Fine, but be quick.”

Rick quickly walked through the emergency wing to find Cameron’s room. He was in a white hospital gown and had two tubes sticking through him.

“Cameron, you are awake, right?”

“Barely, but yes,” he answered softly.

Rick wanted to give him a hug but stepped back seeing the weak condition.

“I need to tell you something, Rick.”

“What is it?”

“I saw the killer’s face.”

To be continued...

PART 13

“You saw what they looked like?!” Rick asked again.

Cameron winced, startled by Rick’s sudden booming voice. “Yes, I did.”

“Do they know that you saw them?”

“No, I-I don’t think so,” Cameron replied.

“What did they look like? Do we know them?”

“I don’t think so. It was a young guy. Probably in his 20s or 30s. When he had me tied in that chair before he started his little call with you, he showed me his face on purpose,” Cameron explained.

“Why would he do that?”

“He said because he wants you to find him. He said he wanted the Red Raven himself to capture him.”

“Of course,” Rick thought out loud.

“Why’s that?”

“Because that’s been his play this whole time. He wants the Red Raven to go after him for what he’s done not only to hurt those I love but to have me become the Red Raven in reality. He’s creating his own real life Red Raven fever dream,” Rick summarized.

Cameron took in the information silently and changed the subject, “He said that he saw you in person not long ago, either.”

“What?”

“He said you saw him and that it was the most important day of his life. He saw you and said that if he could have, he would have told you everything but didn’t want to spoil his plans. What a sick puppy.”

Rick fast traveled through his memories of the past couple days; he couldn’t point anyone out exactly who would feel like the type of person to go after him or let alone feel such an exciting feeling upon meeting him. Suddenly, like a train, the identity of the killer hit him.

“Oh my God,” he mouthed.

“You know who it is?” Cameron asked.

“I need to go find Isabelle now.”

Rick ran out of Cameron’s room to the emergency room parking lot. He had no idea where Officer Nathan would be, but he supposed the police station would be a good start. Then, his phone began to ring. Rick’s stomach sank to the floor, knowing

exactly who it was. Despite his dread, he answered.

“Hello, Mr. Greenblatt. You’ve cracked the code, haven’t you?” the killer teased.

“You’re that Nathan kid from the police station. I should’ve known since the moment you left the evidence room. You didn’t leave because of my argument with my daughter, you left to cover your tracks,” Rick assessed.

“Very good, Mr. Greenblatt. I guess old dogs can learn new tricks. But, I have just one last thing to tell you before I’m done calling you forever.”

“Just tell me,” Rick said.

“I have Isabelle at the old canning warehouse across Miller Avenue and 68th Street. She’s alive for now, and if you want to keep her alive, I need you to follow my instructions perfectly. I want you to come down here promptly at 8:43 p.m. with your Red Raven costume on, and I want you to take me down like all of the other dastardly villains from the show. I want to be known as the final adversary the Red Raven has ever taken down. Please, do this one request for me, and I will stop all that I am doing and serve my time in prison. If you do not do what I say then your daughter, your husband and you will all die. I would also say everyone you have ever loved but you don’t have anyone else who loved you,” the killer instructed.

Rick replied, “Fine. I’ll do as you say.”

“Very good, Mr. Greenblatt. Time for justice to be served yet again by the Red Raven,” Nathan ended the call.

Rick turned his car around and took the route to his home. Once he entered his house, he noticed the silence. A silence he hasn’t known was there for many years. The roar of the crowd, the snaps from the paparazzi, the boiling of spaghetti noodles and the music from the television were all silenced. Rick walked into his closet and grabbed the infamous Red Raven costume. The red hat, coat, mask and gloves were all in pristine condition. They called out to him as he spread the attire out on his bed.

“Was this right? Giving the killer what he wants?” He thought to himself.

Then, he put the costume back in the closet and began waiting for the time.

To be continued...

The Icebox: An in-depth review of video game “Valheim”

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

“Minecraft” is a wonderful game. However, it simply doesn’t cut it sometimes when playing and seeking adventure. Sure, one could always mod the game to make it harder to seem different, but that takes a lot of experimentation. The truth is that the gameplay mechanics make the game uninteresting at times, and things such as biomes don’t necessarily have any rewarding aspects that make a player feel compelled to explore often. It would be better for a game to incorporate a type of built-in progression to guide a player and to give them incentive to explore, craft and expand their inventory. Better options for movement and combat certainly make the game more interesting. Such things are available in “Valheim.”

“Valheim” is a survival and sandbox game that has a medieval, viking theme and includes aspects of Norse mythology. The basic story is that the allfather, Odin, created a separate tenth realm where the greatest warriors of Midgard would be revived

and tested, which was done in an effort to increase his army in preparation for the rise of his enemies. This realm was known as Valheim. In the tutorial, the player receives guidance from a raven sent by Odin. The raven mentions that warriors who overcome challenges in Valheim and prove themselves can be taken to Valhalla. This can be done by exploring, crafting, harvesting and fighting.

The exploration in Valheim is across several biomes, which are kind of unlocked in a linear fashion as players need to visit different areas for more advanced materials. The biomes include trees, rocks, fruit, and other perishable items important to the player’s health. Wood can initially be collected from branches on the ground and rocks can be picked up without needing a pickaxe. With proper collection of resources, players can invest in farming and fishing too.

Players can craft benches to make tools, which can be upgraded and used to harvest wood and rock. The crafting system is simple as one does not need to memorize any recipes. Tools can easily be repaired without using many resources. This makes it easier to

always have tools on hand and gives players a reason to keep track of their item durability. Crafting enables players to build houses, which are made up of pieces of floor, wall and roof that can be arranged in millions of ways to the user’s liking. To make building structures more realistic, certain pieces can only be placed on flat ground, a campfire is needed to consider a place “cozy” and a roof must be placed over workbenches and beds.

“Valheim” progress is dependent on how often a player seeks adventure. For each action there are individual experience points. For example, the more a player jumps the better they get at the jumping skill. This level of progression encourages players to use all of their skills and constantly improve their player’s health and stamina. Speaking of, the food is needed for passive fulfillment of hunger rather than being exclusive to health. This feels more realistic and can be helpful in longer adventures. If a player picks up a berry while exploring, they can consume it or brew it into a potion to maximize effects of healing, strength and speed.

Finally, the combat in “Valheim” is much

more interesting. Players can wield weapons that deal three main types of damage: blunt, slashing and piercing. That means your character can use clubs, swords, spears, knives, axes and bows. The movement when a player is using a weapon changes so that dodging and counter-attacking is different depending on what you’re wielding. There are two main types of strikes, and there are options for quick evasion and blocking attacks. This combat system isn’t too advanced, but it certainly beats the bland style in “Minecraft.” The enemies in “Valheim” are much smarter and have various types of attack patterns. Sometimes they chase you alone, and sometimes they band together or carry powerful loot with them.

There are boss fights that get progressively harder and exist across the different biomes. A player’s ultimate goal is to summon the bosses in order to prove their worth as a warrior. If you would like to face a good challenge and get a taste of new opportunities in a sandbox game, pick up this title and earn Valhalla.

Listening between the lines: Review of AJR’s “The Maybe Man”

By Stephen Youkoski

Contributing Writer

On Nov. 10, 2023, electropop band AJR released its fifth studio album titled “The Maybe Man.” It follows “OK Orchestra,” which was released on March 26, 2021, making it over three years since their last album.

Now, I will be the first to admit that AJR and their style of music is not for everyone. The brothers use many odd instruments and sound effects that are a turnoff for many people.

In order to truly experience the band, you must look past all of that for a moment. Instead, focus on how we can see what AJR are really about: the lyrics. The lyrics are what make their music so personal, and “The Maybe Man” may be the most personal so far. This is also their first album where the majority of songs have the explicit rating.

Many of the songs in the album have that classic AJR feel, including “Maybe Man,” “Inertia,” “I Won’t” and the conclusion of

the album “2085.” Many of the same loud beat drops, background acapella and funky sounding instruments are present.

However, even with those sounds, the lyrics of these songs hold a much deeper meaning.

In “Maybe Man,” who is a recurring character so to speak, struggles with who and what they are.

“Wish I was a stone, so I couldn’t feel... I wish I had eyes in the back of my head, then I could see the places I’ve been.”

After each wish, they then list why those things would be back. It shows a constant cycle of feeling inadequate and confused. The song concludes with a loud crash and the words “here I go again,” continuing the spiral.

The next song, “Touchy Feely Fool,” explores a real life family scandal that the brothers went through. The song is about wishing you could stop caring about someone who wronged you.

“Someday, won’t this be funny? Well, I want it funny now... I would give anything to not [care], but I do.”

The song teaches us that we can be hurt

and still love someone, that we can know someone is bad, but be unable to escape our feelings. And that’s okay.

Later in the album comes “Inertia,” a song that much like “World’s Smallest Violin” from their previous album, became a hit on TikTok with a viral trend. As someone who listens to the radio a lot, it has certainly made its way on-air plenty as well.

Inertia, in physics, is an object’s resistance to change while in motion. In other words, objects in motion tend to stay in motion. That definition is exactly how it feels to listen to this song.

The background sound, with that classic AJR feel, does just enough to avoid being too much. It is a perfect complementary piece to the lyrics. The chorus of “Inertia” takes the definition of inertia and spins it to a human being.

“I’m an object in motion, I’ve lost all emotion, my two legs are broken but look at me dance. An object in motion, don’t ask where I’m going ‘cause where I am going is right where I am.”

We as humans are resistant to change. We fight and fight in order to grow, yet we still stick with familiarity and in turn, harm ourselves in the process. We stunt our growth and we stay stagnant. Moving on from relationships, from jobs, from school—anything can start to feel impossible.

Yet, there’s still hope. In those same chorus lyrics that sound like we are stuck, they also show us that we can still dance through the pain. Ultimately, the album is a beautifully crafted journey through life. That’s not to say it’s perfect though.

Songs like “Steve’s Going to London,” which is a song literally about nothing, drag the album down. Even “2085,” which has a beautiful conclusion, is unbelievably drawn out. It could be half the time and be just as good.

With that, I leave you with this. Give it a shot. There is so much more for you to discover.

The worst that can happen is you stay in motion.

Why you should give long-term media series a chance

By Shawn Carey
Contributing Writer

Think if this has ever happened to you. You and someone else are talking about some form of media; for this example, let's say a television show. The conversation eventually leads to you recommending your favorite show to them. You hype the show up and explain what makes it so great. It seems like they are completely on board, until you tell them that there are 16 seasons. They give you a shocked look and tell you that it's too long.

Okay, maybe that's a bit oddly specific. However, I'm sure a somewhat similar event has happened to you.

Whenever we look for a new show or movie to watch, we usually tend to avoid lengthy series. The same goes for most forms of media such as books, games and comics. We don't even notice ourselves doing it most of the time; it's just a subconscious reaction.

There's a number of reasons why we do this, such as time. No matter if it's because of work or school, we often find ourselves pressed for time. Not everyone has the time to sit down and read a 1000-page book or a 20-season show, which is perfectly understandable. Not everyone wants to use what little downtime they have on a seemingly never ending endeavor.

Another reason is that we tend to have a completionist mindset. We want to watch something we can easily finish. We want to be able to get through something as quickly as possible, so we can move on to the next series. Once again, there isn't really anything wrong with this. There's so much great content out there, and no one wants to be hung up on a single series.

There's also a financial aspect to it. Let's use "Dune" as an example. There are a total of 23 books in the series. While many of them are spinoffs, there are still six canon books in the main series. Unless you're a super fan, I highly doubt that anyone wants to buy that

many books just to get the maximum amount of enjoyment out of a franchise.

Longer series are honestly a hassle to get through most of the time, and I don't really blame anyone for avoiding them. However, if you're willing to power through the length, you'll



experience some truly fantastic storytelling. In this article, I'll be highlighting one series that's known for its intense length and how it uses it to its advantage: "One Piece."

The story follows the adventures of Monkey D. Luffy and his crew the Straw Hats Pirates as they travel the "Grand Line" in search of the mythical treasure known as the "One Piece."

The series has been serialized "Weekly Shonen Jump Magazine" since July 1997, with its individual chapters compiled in 108 volumes as of April 2024. The series also has an anime adaptation which currently stands at 1100 episodes. Around 90 or so of those episodes are filler and can be skipped, however that still leaves you over a 1000 episodes worth of content.

I grew up watching "One Piece," so I never had to go through the challenge of binge watching it. However, my friends who have binged the series have told me

all about how much of a struggle it was.

I, for one, believe that the length does more to help the series than it does to harm it.

The story of "One Piece" takes place over the course of many years. While the main story of "The Straw Hats" takes place over the span of just a couple of months, the series is full of flashbacks that take the viewers back to earlier times.

This is done for the sake of world building. It's through these flashbacks that we get to really learn the true story of "One Piece." We get to see how the wicked actions of the "World Government" have affected the lives of many of the characters and how they've manipulated history to fit into their unjust narrative.

The show also has a rather large and diverse cast. The "Grand Line" is full of people from vastly different backgrounds.

Pirates, marines, fish men, warlords, giants and more occupy the seas. The series is able to give a decent amount of screen time to many of its important characters.

It also provides ample time for those characters to develop. Let's take a look at how the main character Monkey D. Luffy has changed since the start of the series.

Luffy begins his journey to become "King of the Pirates" with absolutely nothing; no crew, no ship and no idea of even what to do. He knew that he wanted to be a pirate; however, he didn't really know what being a pirate was all about. Luffy spends much of the series growing not only as a pirate but as a person.

Over the course of his journey, he finds individuals to join his crew and help him achieve his dream, gaining not only a crew but also a family. He also earns quite a bit of fame. He starts out as a rookie with no experience and eventually becomes an "Emperors of the Sea," a group of four pirates considered to be the most notorious and powerful captains in the world.

As you can imagine, it took quite a while for Luffy to reach the level he's currently at. The series' long length is used to explore these fanatical concepts and complex developments in a smooth and natural way. If it wasn't for the series length, many ideas would seem rushed and wouldn't flow smoothly in the story.

Even after saying all of that, I do still believe that the series could realistically be a tad bit shorter, mainly the anime adaptation. Many of "One Piece" story arcs are so long that they can practically be considered their own series. However, if you're willing to go through with it, you'll be greeted with a great series, and hopefully, it will inspire you to check out many other long series.

Graphic by Laura De Lora



Beyoncé's "Cowboy Carter": A track-by-track album review

By Natalia Williams

Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff Writer

Beyoncé is back!

Her new album "Cowboy Carter" released on March 29, and it definitely made an impression on Beyoncé fans and music lovers all around the world.

This album follows as a second act from her other recent album "Renaissance." For this record, Beyoncé stepped into the country genre but added her own twist to it. The record contains 27 tracks with features from mega stars like Dolly Parton, Miley Cyrus and Post Malone. Personally, I was excited to hear something that Beyoncé hasn't done before, so this album was one I was really excited for.

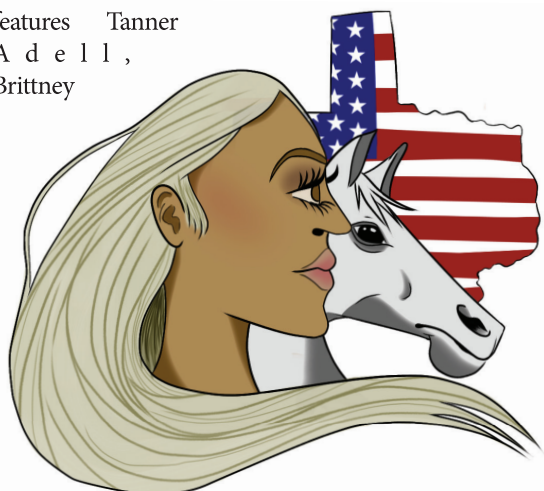
Now let's take a deeper look at one of the highly anticipated albums of the year so far.

AMERICAN REQUIEM: 6/10

Album openers are the most important part of an album in my opinion. It sets the tone and theme on what you are about to listen to. This track already gave a vibe of country and R&B. It was a very soulful song and showcased her vocal abilities greatly. The production quality on this song was amazing, and it made me excited to see what the other songs had to offer. It's not a track I'd play on repeat, but it was a good album opener.

BLACKBIRD: 9/10

This track serves as sort of an interlude. It is a cover of The Beatles song "Blackbird," and the track was a tribute to the Little Rock Nine. The transition from the opener to this one was very seamless and I am always a fan of smooth transitions in albums. It's not a long song but it gives you so much in just two minutes. This track features Tanner
A d e l l ,
Brittney



Spencer, Tiera Kennedy and Reyna Roberts. I really enjoyed the overall vibe of the track. It's slow and again showcases her vocals greatly. The added singers made harmonies sound beautiful, and it was something I appreciated.

16 CARRIAGES: 7/10

This song is one two singles off the album and one of my favorites. It's another song that gives a country/R&B sound, and by this track, I can start to tell how the rest of the album is going to sound. The production elements are once again amazing. The organ piano in the track adds such a soulful feel, and it adds so much to the song.

PROTECTOR: 9/10

This song is a love song to her three children. It gives a message saying she will love and protect them from anything in this world no matter what. It's a bit more country than the past songs but again, she doesn't let go of her own style. I enjoy how relaxed this song is. For this one, there aren't that many instruments that can be heard, but similar to the other tracks, the overall production quality of the track is simply beautiful.

TEXAS HOLD 'EM: 8/10

"Texas Hold 'Em" is another single off the album. This song was very popular on social media and it had a lot of mixed reviews. For me personally, I feel this one sounds more country than the previous songs but also does include those R&B and hip hop elements that the other tracks include. Overall, it's not a bad song, and it's very catchy. It is one that has to grow on me, but with time, I feel it will become one of my favorites.

JOLENE: 9/10

I'm absolutely obsessed with the way Beyoncé did this. She turned a country classic into something modern that fits her style, and I love the way she did it.

DAUGHTER: 10/10

Two words. In. Love. There is something about this song that I LOVE. The songwriting is amazing, and the overall vibe of the track is something that made me fall in love. I was shocked when she switched to Italian for a verse; she sounded so good. This song also shows off her vocals beautifully. The instruments in this song are gorgeous and it gives me classical music vibes, but it is still cohesive with the other tracks.

SPAGHETTI: 9/10

This track is a complete 360 of what the previous track sounds like. This isn't a country track and it is more rap/hip-hop. I was scared that this track would mess up the cohesiveness of the album, but for some reason it just works and it still flows. Transitioning from "Daughter" to this was definitely a surprise but it just works. The production on this track is also just simply outstanding. It is one of the shorter tracks, but again, it gives you so much.

JUST FOR FUN: 8/10

This song features Willie Nelson. It's a very chill and beautiful song. There isn't too much going on production wise, but it's still really good. My favorite part is the orchestra that peaks through in some points of the song. I feel it adds such a soft aspect to the music, and it sounds beautiful. Willie Jones adds something so special to this track and it is one of my favorites.

II MOST WANTED: 9/10

I was the most excited about this song. Miley Cyrus is one of my favorite singers, so her being on a Beyoncé track made me very excited! It is definitely more of a country song, but they sound so beautiful together. Their voices blend together so well and they compliment each other. It was also nice hearing Miley on a country track again. The song definitely met my expectations and it's definitely in my top five for rankings.

LEVI'S JEANS: 7/10

This song has a Post Malone feature. I was very curious when I first saw he was gonna be on the album, and I was interested in how they were gonna do it. This one surprised me. Beyoncé and Post Malone just work together so well. I like this song more than I thought I would. It is still the same country/R&B sound, but I also hear a few pop elements in there as well.

FLAMENCO: 8/10

This song title got me very excited because I really like flamenco music so I was fully expecting a flamenco song, but she incorporated flamenco with country and it sounded beautiful. It is a bit on the shorter side but again gives us a lot in a short time.

YA YA: 8/10

The transition from the interlude and to the song was so flawless. It's definitely a bit more hip-hop/R&B than a country track, but it does still have country elements. This

song reminds me of songs you would hear at a southern church. Even though it is a bit of a different sound it, again, flows with the other tracks and is cohesive with the rest.

DESERT EAGLE: 4/10

This song is only one minute and 12 seconds long so it's short and doesn't really give anything too special. Compared to the other shorter tracks, this one is a bit more bland with not too much going on.

RIVERDANCE: 5/10

For this track, Beyoncé incorporated more of a dance beat with country, and I think she did really well. This has a different vibe than the previous ones but it flows well. This is one of the longer tracks but overall it's nothing too special for me personally.

II HANDS II HEAVEN: 5/10

This one sounds like a continuation of "Riverdance." It has the same beat and same feel but just two different songs. There are some differences sound wise but overall for me it's just a continuation of the last track.

SWEET HONEY BUCKEEN: 10/10

SO GOOD! It is another 360 from the rest of the tracks and it's such a good hype song. Although it is very different from the rest of the tracks, it somehow just fits for me personally. I really liked that song towards the end because it just leaves a good impression and it's such a good hype song.

AMEN: 8/10

Just like the opening track, the ending is very important for me as well. It finishes off the album and is like closing a book. This track is like closing the album. It almost acts as a continuation of "American Requiem" but just as a closing. The end of this track smoothly transitions back to the first track, and I thought that was really neat.

Overall I would give this album a solid 7/10. It's not my favorite Beyoncé album, but I thought it was good. This album had a lot of people wondering what Beyoncé would sound like in the country, but I thought she did it pretty well. She added her own twist to it and her own style and I really like that. The album has different sounds for some songs, but it wasn't incohesive and all over the place.

I would recommend this album to everyone just so they can hear how versatile Beyoncé is. This album shows she can try any genre, and she will still keep her top spot in the music industry.

Graphic by Laura De Lora

Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Editor: Adam.grundt@wilkes.edu

Wilkes LAX suffers tough loss in fundraiser game

Team show support the Julia Hockey Mazur Foundation

By Ava Tureen
Sports Writer

The women's lacrosse team honored the Julia Hockey Mazur Foundation in a recent home game against Lycoming College.

Julia Mazur was a junior at Wilkes who died from cancer late last year. She was a business major pursuing a minor in communication studies.

"It was a very emotional game as we were playing for Julia Mazur," said senior Maleah Cobham. "She was loved by many people here at Wilkes and was close with girls on the team."

In the week prior to the game, the team solid T-shirts honoring Julia, with proceeds benefiting the foundation.

"Even though we did not come out on top, it was one of our best games as a team."

Although the team put up a tough fight, they were unable to put up more points than Lycoming with a final score of 19-6.

During the first period, Lycoming scored nine times. First-year student Brooklynn Donia was in goal for the first period.

In the last minute of the first quarter Maleah Cobham scored Wilkes' first point. Cobham had five shots on goal during the first period.

Morgan Hettesheimer had first possession of the ball during the game. Hettesheimer also had one shot on goal during the first period.

There were three fouls on Wilkes during the last five minutes of the first period. Ava Ward had a turnover and drew control within the first five minutes of the game.

In the second quarter junior and captain Samantha Scott went in goal. Anmarie Lebron opened the second quarter up with a ground ball and Ward with a shot on goal.

Brooklyn Pedana had her 13th goal of the season and was assisted by Sam Mullen. After Pedana's goal the score was 10-2.

One minute later, Breanne Fulling received a green card and Wilkes had a failed clear attempt. Bianka Melendez and Keara Dughey both got fouls one after the other. Maleah Cobham and Ward both had shots on goal but they were saved by the Lycoming goalie Zoe Stauffer.

Starting off the 3rd quarter on the right foot Hettesheimer had her 7th goal of the season. Her goal made the score 16-3.

"The team kept positive attitudes and lifted each other up if we saw someone start to get down," said Cobham.

Ward then proceeded to gain control

of the ball and had a shot on goal but hit the post. Mullen picked up a ground ball and had a shot on goal.

Pedana also had a shot on goal.

Within the last five minutes of the 3rd quarter Taylor Quackenbush picked up a ground ball and Emma Raville had a turnover. Raville then scored her second goal of the season in the last 10 seconds of the quarter.

Pedana started the final quarter off right by scoring her 14th goal of the season and Ward assisted.

After the goal, Fulling gained control of the ball. Cobham then shot wide at the goal and Raville had a turnover. Cobham picked up a ground ball and had another shot on Lycoming's goal.

Lexie Nevel picked up a ground ball and Cobham and Ward both had shots on goal. Carly Yuhás picked up her first ground ball of the game and Emily Jackson had a turnover.

Pedana then scored her final goal of the game.

Jackson received the final foul of the game within the last three minutes..

"I have never been on a team so close to one another and I would not change that for the world," said Cobham.

Wilkes continues their season at Bruggeworth Field on April 20 when they take on Elizabethtown College.

For information on the foundation, go to: <https://juliahockeymazurfoundation.com/>



WrestleMania 40: The “Avengers Endgame” of WWE

By Leah Smith

Contributing Writer

On April 6 and 7, WWE held its 40th WrestleMania event. This year's event became streaming service Peacock's most streamed sporting event with 1.3 billion minutes watched.

Starting with Night One of WrestleMania was the Women's Champion Title match between Rhea Ripley and Becky Lynch. The match opened with Motionless in White performing Ripley's entrance song live.

Ripley retained the title against Lynch.

Next, was the six-pack ladder match for the Tag Team Championship. The two winning teams were Austin Theory and Grayson Waller and The Miz and R-Truth.

Next, was Andrade and Rey Mysterio vs. Dominik Mysterio and Santos Escobar. Rey and Andrade took the win in this match with the help of Philadelphia Eagles, Jason Kelce and Lane Johnson.

The following match was between brothers Jey and Jimmy Uso. Jey Uso took the win against his brother.

The penultimate match was for the Intercontinental Championship between Gunther and Sami Zayn. The match ended with Sami Zayn taking the title from Gunther in what was a miraculous win.

The main event of that night was the tag team match with Cody Rhodes and Seth Rollins vs. The Rock and Roman Reigns. The result of this match was vital because if Rhodes and Rollins won, there would be no interference allowed for the Rhodes vs. Reigns match the following day. However, if The Rock and Reigns won, it would be “Bloodline rules,” meaning that anything goes.

The Rock and Reigns won this match.

The first match on Sunday was for the Heavyweight Champion title between Seth Rollins and Drew McIntyre.

Rollins lost the title to McIntyre,

but his celebration was cut short due to Damian Priest running in to cash in his Money in the Bank contract. He pinned McIntyre and took the title.

The next match was a street fight between The Street Profits vs. The Final Testament. The match ended with The Street Profits taking the win.

The following match was between LA Knight and AJ Styles, who have had an entertaining rivalry on Friday Night SmackDown. The match resulted with LA Knight taking the win.

The following match was for the United States Championship title. Logan Paul had to face off against Randy Orton, and Kevin Owens and managed to retain the title.

The penultimate match was for the second Women's Championship title between Bayley and Iyo Sky. Bayley won the match against her former partner.

Finally, the main event arrives with Cody Rhodes facing off against

Roman Reigns for the Undisputed championship title. The match started off with no interference until Jimmy Uso attacked Rhodes. Shortly following that, Jey Uso ran out to help Rhodes and got Jimmy out of the way. Then, Solo Sikoa came out to help Reigns but was stopped by John Cena. To stop Cena, The Rock came out and performed a “rock bottom” on him. Then, The Shield entrance music started playing and Seth Rollins came out in his old Shield gear.

He was taken out by Reigns with a chair, mirroring what Rollins did to him which broke apart the Shield faction.

Then, for one last surprise, The Undertaker appeared behind The Rock and chokeslammed him. After all of that, Rhodes pinned Reigns and finally “finished the story” by winning the title against Reigns.

Recapping a “Free Agency Eclipse” in the NFL

By Adam Grundt

Asst. Sports Editor

Free agency in the NFL is often a hectic time.

Millions of dollars are given out in contracts, and players sign to teams that they will spend the majority of their careers with. Typically, only a few star players change teams every season.

However, this year, the number of players moving to new teams was taken to a new level, which is about as rare as a solar eclipse.

This season, some superstars moved to new teams. Even some departed old squads for their former team's fiercest rivals, upsetting fans.

Saquon Barkley was drafted by the New York Giants in 2018. However, after six disappointing seasons as one of the lone stars on the Giants' roster, he has joined the Philadelphia

Eagles this offseason. Giants' fans were shocked by this deal, as the Eagles are one of New York's biggest division rivals.

The Giants are looking to build off a disappointing past few seasons.

After losing Barkley, the Giants don't have much star power on their roster. However, the Eagles are just looking to compete after adding Barkley to a juggernaut team that already has the talent to win a Super Bowl. Jalen Hurts, AJ Brown, Barkley, and Devonta Smith are looking to lead the Eagles to a Super Bowl Championship after coming so close in years prior.

In addition, the Chicago Bears have made a few moves in free agency.

They have most notably signed former Eagles running back, D'Andre Swift, former Eagles safety Kevin Byard, and former Los Angeles Charger and pro-bowl wide receiver Keenan Allen.

The Bears shipping off their old

quarterback, Justin Fields, to the Pittsburgh Steelers signifies that they are putting these pieces in place with the intentions of taking Caleb Williams with the first pick in the NFL Draft in a few weeks. As a result of trading the number one pick for a package including Carolina's number one pick in 2024 and DJ Moore, the Bears hold the power to draft a quarterback that could change the direction of their franchise.

Most recently, the Buffalo Bills shockingly traded star wide receiver Stefon Diggs to the Houston Texans. After first year quarterback CJ Stroud solidified himself as the best quarterback in the 2023 draft class, the Texans have established a core around him with hopes to contend for a division championship. Diggs joins a wide receiver room that already includes Nico Collins and Tank Dell.

With Stroud running the offense, this

team has extreme potential to do some damage this upcoming season.

A few moves containing former Philadelphia Eagles went under the radar. Carson Wentz inked a one-year contract with the Kansas City Chiefs to be Patrick Mahomes's backup for the upcoming season.

Also, outside linebacker Haason Reddick was traded from Philadelphia to the New York Jets. A seismic loss for the Eagles, Reddick immediately steps in to make New York's defense fearsome alongside cornerback Sauce Gardner, who is looking to build on a great 2023 campaign.

The NFL offseason is always an exciting time. It is not often that moves of this caliber happen more than once in any given offseason. Typically, few star players switch uniforms but every so often, a free agency “eclipse” is to happen, and players switch teams.

Men's LAX update: Time remains to improve record

By Sam Mullen
Contributing Writer

The men's lacrosse team is currently having a back and forth season with a current overall record of 4-8. They are 1-4 in the Landmark conference

The team hosted Goucher College for Senior Day. The team celebrated the eight seniors: goalie Joseph Marino, midfielder Colby Opromolla, midfielder Austin Seames, defensive and long stick midfielder Tucker Parmer, face-off midfielder Blake Billingsly, defender Brendan Keegan, and long stick midfielder Matthew Warns.

The game was back and forth the whole time but the Colonels ultimately lost the game 10-5. Junior attackman Anthony DelDuca opened up the scoring with a pass from fifth year attackmen Dillin Kadis. Matthew Warns followed up next with an assist from first year defenseman J'Vier Johnson.

Warns broke the 2-2 tie at the beginning of the second quarter which was unassisted. First year Austin Sosnovik and senior Austin Seames were the last two Colonel's to score with Sosnovik's goal being assisted by junior defensemen Jackson Casper.

Sosnovik is in his first year as a Colonel and has been having an incredible season. He currently has 15 goals, nine assists, and 11 ground balls to his name this year.

Though the statistics may show that the transition from high school to college have been easy for Sosnovik, he still has experienced challenges.

"One challenge I have faced as a freshman player was learning to play with the shot clock. In high school we didn't play with a shot clock so I have had to learn to be aware of it and make decisions based on how much time is left on it."

With the season so close to the end, there have been some very memorable moments for all of the players and coaches.

As no surprise, the game against the cross-town rival was one that came



Photo by Steve Finkernagel

Senior Tucker Parmer during a recent game.

to all of their minds. The Colonels hosted King's College back on March 20, where the game ended in a double overtime victory.

"There are a couple of moments that really stand out for me from this season. The most notable one was beating King's College in double overtime to end our out of commerce play," stated captain Tim Harka, a sophomore attackmen when looking back at the game.

The shift to the Landmark Conference has created adjustments for everyone.

"I am very happy with our effort," Coach Curtis Jaques stated. "Everyday this group comes ready to work and get better at practice. Their time spent in the weight room and preparing their bodies for game days shows against some tough Landmark teams.

"Our team plays tough, physical lacrosse for 60 minutes."

Jaques is in his ninth year as head coach for the men's lacrosse team. He has expressed how the team members are at their peak performance levels and have adapted well with a new field and new conference.

"This season we are a full field lacrosse team," he said. "Offense starts from our goalie outlets and we expect pole goals in transition. We have athletic defensemen and mids who can push full field lacrosse and it's fun to watch.

"We want to compete in every game and get better everyday. Stay focused on what we can control and train hard. We have specific game goals we want to achieve in every game.

"We like ground balls, assisted goals, riding caused turnovers, and face off wins."

The Colonel's only have a few more games remaining for the season. On April 17, they play home against the

University of Scranton at 7 p.m.

The team's last two games are both away with athletes traveling to Elizabethtown College on April 20 at 1 p.m.

Their final game will have them traveling to Maryland to face Catholic University of America on April 27 at 1 p.m.

**7 p.m.
April 17
Men's LAX
Home against
U. of Scranton**

Athlete of the Week

Zoe Klein Senior, Women's Tennis

The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week

Klein helped the Colonels defeat Juniata with winning the #3 singles match. She also won the #1 doubles match alongside Cassidy Greenman

Major: Psychology
Hometown: Southbury, CT

What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?

My favorite sports memory took place all the way back during my freshman year, when the Women's tennis team beat Stevens to win the MAC conference.

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?

As a native of Connecticut, my favorite sports team is the Giants

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

My favorite thing to do apart from sports is cooking and baking.

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?

My favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes is the team. I have a great team that I can rely on to keep spirits high.

What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?

A League of Their Own

have wanted to play?

I used to do a lot of running and loved that and practicing for relay races.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Although the whole process of getting recruited was exciting, nothing can beat my favorite sports memory from Freshman year.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

My favorite post match meal is Panera Bread, especially the frontega chicken panini.

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?

It's an honor to have been selected for Athlete of the Week. There are so many amazing athletes and coaches at Wilkes, I hold this award in the highest regard.

Compiled by Samantha Mullen, Asst. Sports Editor

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you

The Beacon//Samantha Mullen

Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."

Athlete of the Week

Luke Spencer

Junior, Men's Baseball, Third Baseman

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week

Spencer went 8 for 13 against Juniata College with nine RBIs, four doubles, and two stolen bases. The first game, he went 2 for 5 with three RBIs, one double, and a stolen base. During the final game, Spencer put up another 3 for 4 with two more RBIs, another double, and a second stolen base.

Major: Business Administration

Hometown: Lehman, PA

What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?

My favorite sports memory as a Colonel so far was our comeback win against SUNY Cobleskill, where Devin Markert hit a walk off homer.

What is your favorite professional sports team (any sport)?

The Philadelphia Phillies.

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Either hang out with friends or working out

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?

My favorite part about being an athlete at Wilkes is the environment. There is an upbeat, happy mood everyday, so I am excited to get out there and compete day after day

What sports movie is your go-to for movie night?

The Bad News Bears

If you did not play your current sport, what sport would you have wanted to play?

If I didn't play baseball, I would have wanted to play football.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Favorite sports memory overall would be playing little league state championship. We got to play the team that won the United States championship, which is a really cool and humbling experience.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Grilled burgers with mac n cheese

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?

It's an honor, I am blessed to be able to achieve Athlete of the Week and I can only hope for more positive things to come.



The Beacon/Sam Mullen

Editor's note: Athlete of the Week selections are determined by the sports staff each week. At the end of the academic year, we will post a reader poll on Twitter @WilkesBeacon to crown an "Athlete of the Year."

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May 20 to June 7

FULL SESSION

May 20 to Aug. 16

FIRST SESSION

June 10 to July 12

NINE-WEEK SESSION

June 10 to Aug. 13

SECOND SESSION

July 15 to Aug. 16



Wilkes University