



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

Programming Board hosts County Fair event on the greenway



By Shannon Slominski
Photographer

Programming Board hosted a County Fair event on the greenway on Thursday, April 24.

It was a fun-filled event where students could relax after a stressful week of exams and assignments, just before finals.

The event had games and activities like an obstacle course, mechanical shark and a dunk tank where students had the opportunity to dunk members of the Programming Board. It featured a free portrait artist and photo booth as well.

Food offered included chicken tenders, breadsticks, pizza, crab rangoons and more.

The event also featured Programming Board's annual Snack Attack, where students can get free treats, drinks and snacks.

Samara Carey, Programming Board big event chair and event lead, said that the planning for this event began at the end of the previous fall semester with Owen Ward, small event chair and event lead.

"It's been a process, but it's been a fun process," Carey said.

...COUNTY FAIR cont. on p.3

Students sit at tables on the greenway, enjoying the warm weather for the Country Fair event on April 24.

Photo by Shannon Slominski



Professors and Shiv Patel
get pied at Chemistry
Club Bond-B-Q, page 4



The Sordoni Art Gallery
hosts SOMA Night Lights,
page 9



What caused "A Minecraft
Movie" to succeed?,
page 17



Wilkes Baseball kicks off
weekend by honoring Julia
Mazur, page 19

News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor Leah Smith at leah.smith1@wilkes.edu

Student Government notes: April 23 weekly meeting

By Kayla Bicskei
News Staff Writer

Student Government convened for its final weekly meeting of the Spring 2025 semester on April 23. The meeting addressed the Senior send-off. The Student Government Treasurer’s report showed a final budget of \$9,500. The Senior Send-Off began with each

of the seniors receiving a gift from the Student Government as an appreciation of their time and services with the Student Government. The send-off continued with each of the Seniors announcing their immediate plans for after their graduation. To conclude the Senior Send-oOff, a slideshow was played on the projector screen. The slideshow consisted of pictures

of the Student Government members throughout the Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 semesters. The last meeting of the Spring 2025 semester ended with a last goodbye to the graduating Seniors and an adjournment of the meeting. Student Government will meet again in the Fall 2025 semester.

Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Andrew Marshallsay

HPSC Clothing Drive
If you have any clothes you do not want to use anymore, you can drop them off at the Honors office at SLC 262. Donations must be clean and in good condition. No undergarment or swimwear will be accepted for donation.

2025-2026 FAFSA
Students are reminded to fill out the 2025-2026 FAFSA form by May 1 in order to be eligible for the Pennsylvania State Grant. If you have any questions or need help with the form, you can call the Financial Aid Office at 570-408-4512, email at financialaid@wilkes.edu or visit the second floor of Capin Hall.

2025 Founders Gala
The 2025 Wilkes University Founders Gala will be held on May 8 at the Westmoreland Club in Wilkes-Barre. The theme of this year’s event is the Gilded Age, a time in the rich history of the city of Wilkes-Barre.

Construction Work at SIMMS
Until May 1, there will be exterior construction work at the SIMMS building on the corner of South Main and West South Streets. The sidewalks will be impacted in the area, and you are asked to avoid the area if possible. For any questions, contact 2Fix or Charles Cary.

Fall 2025 Parking Applications
Commuter and resident parking permit applications are open now, and will be available until July 1. If you require a Ralston permit, you are asked to note your preference in the comments. No applications will be accepted after the July 1 deadline. For any questions, contact parking at 570-408-7275 on Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Spring 2025 Final Exams
Final exams for the Spring 2025 semester will begin on May 1 and end May 8. To find the final exam schedule, you can visit www.wilkes.edu and visit the “Calendars & Schedules” tab.

Faculty Advisor Workshop - May 14
For new faculty advisors or anyone looking for a refresher, the Office of Academic Success is hosting an advising workshop on May 14 in the Miller Room. The workshop is targeted towards new advisors, but current faculty can also attend. To find the RSVP form, visit today.wilkes.edu.

Men’s Hockey Seeking Social Media Coordinator
The Wilkes Men’s Hockey Team is looking for someone to help amplify content on their social media platforms. If you are interested, contact Head Coach Tyler Hynes at tyler.hynes@wilkes.edu.

Nesbitt School of Pharmacy Hooding Volunteers
The Nesbitt School of Pharmacy is looking for volunteers to help in the Hooding Ceremony on May 16 at 7 p.m. in the MAC. Volunteers are asked to be at the MAC for 5:15 p.m. Care Lab attire is required. For more information, contact Justin Collins at justin.collins@wilkes.edu.

Family Tree at the Sordoni Art Gallery
The new exhibit for the Sordoni Art Gallery is titled Family Tree. The exhibit brings the work of four sisters together to talk about trees. The exhibit is open from April 22 to June 1. The gallery will also be hosting the second Saturday Family Hour on the exhibit on May 10 at noon. Participants can create their own family tree, with supplies being provided.

Summer 2025 Courses
Summer 2025 Courses will begin on May 19 and will be held until August 15. Courses are at a reduced price of \$530 per credit. Financial clearance for summer courses is due May 5 until a payment plan has been set up. For more information visit www.wilkes.edu/academics/summer-classes/index.aspx.

Table of Contents

News.....2

Life, A&E.....7

Opinion.....14

Sports.....19

Upcoming Events: Spring 2025

April
30 - Final Day of Classes

May
1 - First Day of Finals
8 - Last Day of Finals
17 - Spring Commencement
19 - Summer Classes Begin

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: leah.smith1@wilkes.edu

...COUNTY FAIR *cont.* from p.1

Various local craft vendors and businesses attended the event, selling painted glasses, homemade baked goods, jewelry and beyond.

“I wanted to get the local vendors' names out there, and a great way to do that is an event like this,” Carey said.

Programming Board raffled gift certificates for students to support local vendors.

Carey said these events draw large crowds of 120 or more students.

“Events like this are fun and always have a fun crowd,” Carey said. “It's a good time and a good way to relax before finals and have some fun with friends and enjoy some food.”

Several students agreed that the county fair was a great turnout and a good time to relax and hang out with friends before the finals begin.

Photos by Shannon Slominski



Students wait in line for food, which included breadsticks, pizza, and more.



Students shop at local vendors' tables for crafts, baked goods and more.



Students throw balls to dunk a Programming Board member in the dunk tank.



The mechanical shark and inflatable obstacle course students enjoyed.

Professors and Shiv Patel get pied at Chemistry Club Bond-B-Q

By Brady Melovitz

Layout Designer/News Staff Writer

The Chemistry Club hosted its Bond-B-Q followed by the “Pie Your Professor” event at 12:30 p.m. on April 24 in the Evans Hall quartyard.

At the Bond-B-Q, there were typical barbeque foods like burgers, hotdogs, and chips.

Along with the assortment of food at the event, there was a bean bag toss for students and faculty to enjoy awaiting the Pie Your Professor event.

Jake Middleton, Chemistry Club treasurer, was on hand for the pie your professor event. He explained the process that went into choosing the professors that would be pied.

“We just asked all the faculty in the department if they wanted to be involved in the pie your professor event,” Middleton said. “Once we figured out

who said yes, we set up a fundraiser for people to vote who they wanted.”

The list of professors included Dr. Blechle, Dr. Youmans, Dr. Nazzal, Dr. Harms, Dr. Mencer, Mrs. Pitchford, and Dr. Jennings. Students could also vote for chemistry and neuroscience student Shiv Patel.

Students needed to pay \$1 to vote. Middleton mentioned that the professors involved in the pie your professor could even chip in and in turn could be rewarded.

“The way it works is students can vote for the professor that they want to get pied, but the professor can also donate money and for every dollar that they donate they get to remove a vote.”

The professors that got pied at the event were Dr. Mencer and Dr. Jennings alongside Shiv Patel.

Photos by Brady Melovitz



Any Barrios pies chemistry professor and co-chair Dr. Don Mencer.



Geology student Reagan Weldon-Peri and biology student Maria Belen Gonzalez grill burgers.



Biochemistry student Jake Middleton pies chemistry and neuroscience student Shiv Patel.

It's on Us and Title IX host virtual Q&A with Sarah Vaughan

Leah Smith
News Editor

It's On Us and Title IX held a Zoom session with "Anatomy of a Scandal" author Sarah Vaughan on April 24, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Miller Room.

Students who registered for the event had a chance to listen and talk to Vaughan about her novel and her other works.

Title IX coordinator Elizabeth Leo hosted the event and disclosed that the It's On Us book club featured "Anatomy of a Scandal" as one of their titles. "Anatomy of a Scandal" is a crime/courtroom thriller novel that features themes such as sexual assault, abuse of power dynamics and consent.

"It's easier to talk about these things using characters," Leo said. "My hope is that by doing this it would be easier to address these topics in real life."

Vaughan proceeded to read an excerpt from the novel, a courtroom cross-examination scene that she took inspiration from a real life cold case she shadowed in her work in journalism.

Vaughan is mostly known for her fictional work but gathered her knowledge and experience of exploring themes such as sexual crimes in her work as a journalist where she covered crimes involving the sexual assault and abuse on women and young girls.

"I covered these cases because I was seen as non-threatening," Vaughan said.

"In literature and life, the muddy cases and grey areas of consent is where most common cases happen," she added.

"Anatomy of a Scandal" was released a few months after the Harvey Weinstein case and the beginning of the #MeToo movement.

As a joke, Vaughan said, "I finally beat the zeitgeist for once."

Along with the novel, there is a Netflix show adaptation based on the novel with the same name. Copies of the book were offered as well as items provided by Elizabeth Leo, such as a webcam cover and an anti-spiking drink cover. Programming Board provided refreshments.

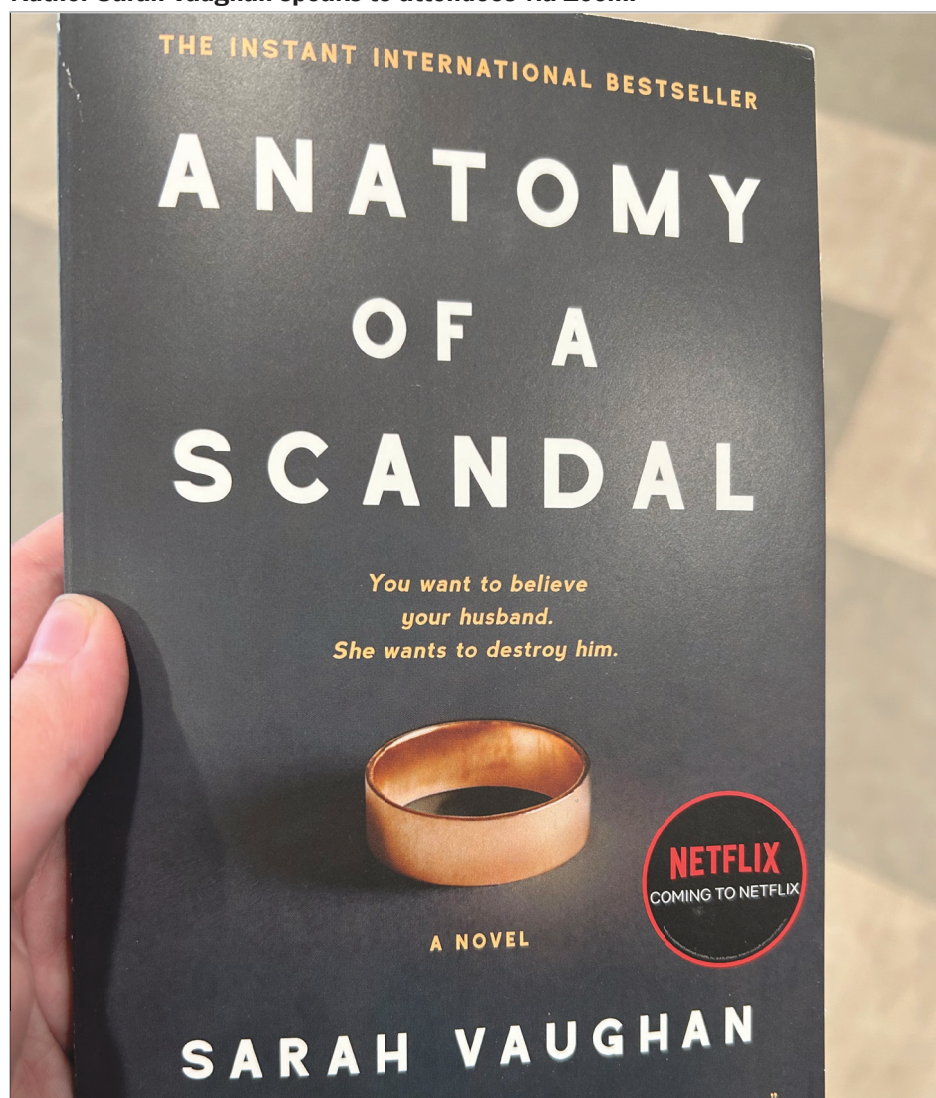
Photos by Leah Smith



Author Sarah Vaughan speaks to attendees via Zoom.



Title IX coordinator Elizabeth Leo introduces Sarah Vaughan.



A copy of Vaughan's novel "Anatomy of a Scandal" that has a Netflix Adaptation.

Wilkes receives 2025-2026 Military Friendly School designation

By Leah Smith
News Editor

Wilkes University has earned the 2025-2026 Military Friendly School designation with the silver distinction.

The silver distinction is dedicated to institutions that offer extraordinary military and veteran programs that scored 21% in the survey and have three or more qualifying benchmarks.

The institutions that have received the Military Friendly School designation were evaluated via survey and public data sources. More than 1,800 schools answered in the survey, with 830 earning rewards for going

above the standard.

By earning the Military Friendly Silver designation shows the dedication Wilkes has for assuring veterans have the resources, guidance and community needed for veterans to thrive in their educational endeavors.

"This school is a great landing zone for military people to make their dreams come true," said Lt. Col. Mark Kaster, director of veterans affairs, veteran counselor and environmental science and engineering professor at Wilkes.

The Military Friendly School designation is a result of the university's services, including but not limited to a veteran's affairs counselor

who works with veterans as they enroll, the Veterans Center of Excellence on campus located in Conyngham Hall that offers a spot for veterans to meet and study and a Wilkes Student Veterans Council that provides programming to help military members transition to the civilian landscape.

Looking into the Wilkes Veterans Student Council, the council members support local military service projects and organizations such as the Wounded Warrior Project. They also provide community services such as sending care packages overseas.

Wayne McCormick, communication and media studies major and secretary

of the Wilkes Veterans Student Council, said he is pleased with the Military Friendly Designation.

"It's a very fine school for vets," McCormick said.

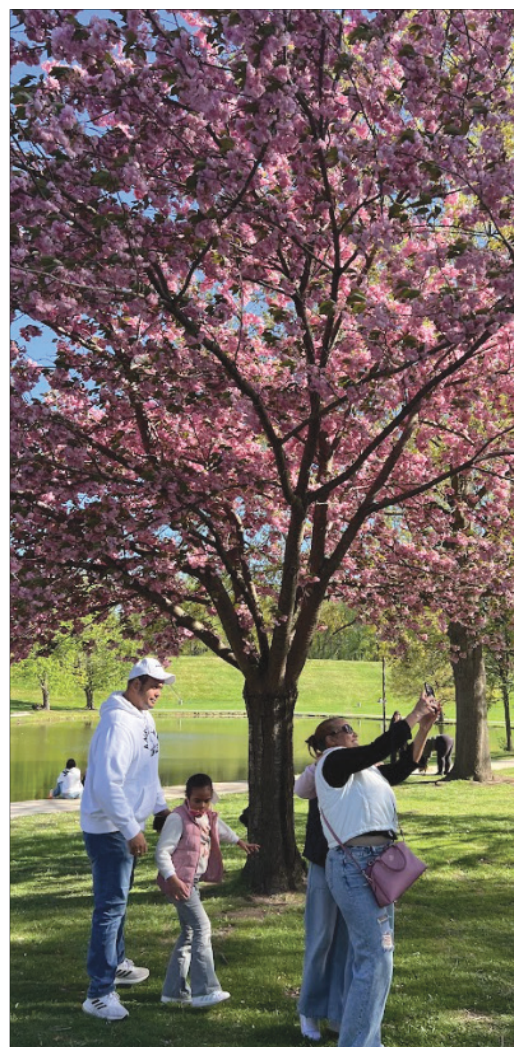
McCormick proceeded to state that a military friend of his is considering applying to Wilkes' creative writing program.

"Schools who achieve awards designation show true commitment in their efforts, exceeding the standard," said Kayla Lopez, vice president of Military Friendly.

For more information about the university's student veteran programs can visit wilkes.edu/veterans.

Wilkes-Barre's annual Cherry Blossom Festival held at Kirby Park

By Sydney Allabaugh
Editor-in-Chief



A family takes a selfie in front of a Cherry Blossom Tree at Kirby Park.



Attendees listen to live music outside in lawn chairs at this year's Cherry Blossom Festival on April 26 and April 27.



Children enjoy rides and carnival games at the festival.



Hundreds of attendees visit dozens of food and craft vendors selling lemonade, jewelry, funnel cake and more.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu

Student choreographers present work in spring performance

By Anthony Kehs

Contributing Writer

Student choreographers were showcased at a recent concert held on campus.

As the 2024-2025 academic year comes to a close, Wilkes University dance minors Maddie Meier, Charley Cain, Amelia Smicherko, Lexi Wesnak, and Kylie Kilvitis, prepared for the Student Choreographers' Concert.

The Student Choreographers' Concert gives dance minors taking DAN 320 (DanceComposition) the opportunity to take full control by selecting their dancers, the dance style, music, choreography, and costume for their piece. This allows them to take a more creative and directorial role.

Meier, choreographed "Sparkle in Spite" to Gracie Abrams' That's So True.

"I wanted my piece to value all of the anger and angst that comes from wanting to be somebody else, so that there was room for the exhilarating feeling of showcasing yourself unapologetically."

Meier added, "I wanted to find four dancers who were also beautifully different from one another. I wanted to combine their different strengths and showcase each of them."

"I liked Maddie Meiers' because it was very touching, and I was able to come up with my own feelings about it and could see the story that was being conveyed," said audience member Elena DiSciullo. "It's very relatable."

Cain, who choreographed "That's Life" to Frank Sinatra's That's Life, had a specific motive for their piece.

"The word I continued using was 'triumph,'" Cain said. "I wanted the audience to get a sense of triumph and that my dancers were strong and that no matter how much life tore them



Work choreographed by Amelia Smicherko, Maddie Meier, Kylie Kilvitis, Charley Cain and Lexi Wesnak was recently performed at Wilkes' Choreographers' Concert.

down, they were right back up again, cause that's life."

Jesse Lawson, another audience member, said they liked how every dance had "a clear story to tell."

In addition to the Student Choreographers' Concert, Meier, Cain, and Smicherko's pieces were handpicked and performed later

Saturday night during the Spring Dance Concert, where choreography from dance classes like tap and Broadway to modern and ballet were showcased. The classes were taught by faculty members Lynne Esgro, Sean Harris and Stefan Zubal.

Anyone interested in becoming a dance minor should contact Faculty of

Practice and Director of Dance, Stefan Zubal at stefan.zubal@wilkes.edu or visit

<https://www.wilkes.edu/academics/performing-arts/dance.aspx>.



Sydney Allabaugh:
ANDY - Skrillex

Megan Davis:
After Midnight - Chappell Roan

Leah Smith:
Caramel - Sleep Token

Andrew Marshallsay:
Fast Hearts and Slow Towns -
Midland

Sam Mullen:
20 Dollar Nose Bleed - Fall Out
Boy

Adam Grundt:
Lachryma - Ghost

Shawn Carey:
Collapse (Post-Amerika) -
Rise Against

Brady Melovitz:
The Road I'm On - 3 Doors
Down

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff picks their favorite song of the week. Check out this week's bops!

SENIOR WEEK EVENTS

MAY 12

**CHAMPAGNE
BRUNCH**

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
JPAC, Henry
Student Center



MAY 13

**GAME ON,
SENIORS**

1 p.m.
Dave & Buster's

**THE FINAL
ROUND**

9 p.m.
Downtown
Establishment
Tour

MAY 14

**FINAL
FAREWELL**

6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Rodano's,
53 Public Square,
Wilkes-Barre



MAY 15

**PRESIDENT'S
CELEBRATION
HONORING THE
CLASS OF 2025**

6 p.m - 9 p.m.
Mary Stegmaier Mansion
156 South Franklin Street,
W-B, PA



MAY 16

**COMMENCEMENT
REHEARSAL**

10:30 a.m.
McHale Athletic Center,
Simms Center on Main

**PRESIDENT'S
RECEPTION
HONORING THE
CLASS OF 2025**

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Weckesser Hall

MAY 17

**78TH ANNUAL
SPRING
COMMENCEMENT**

McHale Athletic Center,
Simms Center on Main

10 a.m.
Graduate Ceremony
(Doors Open at 9 a.m.)

3 p.m.
Undergraduate
Ceremony
(Doors Open at 2 p.m.)

The Sordoni Art Gallery hosts SOMA Night Lights

Sydney Allabaugh
Editor-in-Chief

The Sordoni Art Gallery hosted SOMA Night Lights, named for Downtown Wilkes-Barre's newly branded South Main (SOMA) Arts District, on April 25 from 6 to 11 p.m. It was a celebration of community and the arts.

Artist Jeff Dubrow's SOMA Night Lights featured several video-mapped projections on buildings throughout the district.

Other attractions included a car graffiti bomb led by blitz.ink, fire performers and a Kids Courtyard with free crafts.

Photos courtesy of Sordoni Art Gallery



Attendees view Jeff Dubrow's projections on Weckesser Hall.



Children run through the Kids Courtyard at 116 S. Main St. It had free crafts and tables featuring Sordoni Art Gallery's community partners.



Attendees watch a fire performer in front of the Rusty Iris, a school bus transformed into a double-decker, mobile sculpture, art exhibit and venue.



Students graffiti bomb a car, spray painting "SOMA" on the hood.

New exhibit, Family Tree, opens at Sordoni Art Gallery

Find out what is going on in your campus community

By Natalia Williams

Staff Writer

On April 22, The Sordoni Art Gallery opened its latest exhibit "Family Tree."

The exhibit features the work of four sisters, Elin O'Hara Slavick, Madeline Slavick, Susanne Slavick and Sarah Slavick who are each artists.

The exhibit portrays trees in and out of human conflict and care.

"Each sister works with their own medium whether it be paint, mixed media, photography or analog darkroom techniques. While it is a diverse collection of artwork, it is a solid collection work" said Heather Sincavage, director of the Sordoni Art Gallery says.

Sophomore criminology major and art gallery worker Camilia De Los Santos

expressed her thoughts and feelings about the exhibit.

"The exhibit is pretty cool," she said. "It was interesting to learn that most of the trees have survived things like an atomic bomb, so it shows how trees can survive trauma and it symbolizes peace."

Sincavage also explained what the exhibit means deeper.

"What the exhibition does and brings them together through the subject of trees. Each approach the motif of the tree with different intentions whether it is to explore a historic event, reference literature or tackle global issues."

"Family Tree" shows how trees can be mesmerizing and full of meaning. Through the various mediums, it is still a cohesive piece of work that everyone

should see.

The exhibition is very accessible for both scholars and novices...It has so many applications and represents so many things. While using the tree, it allows us to explore aspects of our own humanity."

Student art gallery worker and DDMA major Nora Ahmetaj also enjoys the exhibit.

"I just think it is really cool. The context behind it and how they used the theme in many ways and more people should see it."

On Saturday May 10, the gallery will host Second Saturday Family Hour: Family Tree. At this event, children will be able to design their own family tree while exploring their family history.

Sordoni Art Gallery Hours:
Tuesday-Friday | 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday | Noon to 5 p.m.

The gallery is closed on Mondays and during University holidays. All events are free and open to the public. Reservations are required for the Last Look brunch. Please RSVP to melissa.carestia@wilkes.edu.

For more information, visit wilkes.edu/sordoniartgallery.

LA&E IS LOOKING FOR WRITERS

music. theater. art. film. community.

contact: sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu

Crossword

End-of semester edition

GRADUATION
MAY
CELEBRATION
EXAM
BLOSSOM
PAPER
COMMENCEMENT
DIPLOMA
CLASS
FINAL
GRADE
PROJECT

N	C	T	D	P	A	D	O	M	L	A	U	L	C
M	S	S	R	A	I	N	N	D	G	A	I	R	O
E	P	P	E	P	A	O	P	L	L	M	P	O	M
C	E	P	L	E	I	I	A	M	E	A	P	B	M
E	B	O	G	R	C	T	O	O	A	X	R	A	E
D	M	O	P	O	E	A	P	N	M	E	B	P	N
A	D	C	L	A	A	U	S	M	E	M	L	P	C
R	M	L	M	O	P	D	E	N	A	P	O	R	E
G	E	A	O	A	D	A	P	A	E	Y	S	O	M
S	N	S	O	A	P	R	L	R	S	F	S	J	E
T	T	S	P	I	N	G	J	R	A	I	O	E	N
C	E	L	E	B	R	A	T	I	O	N	M	C	T
N	N	I	A	T	G	B	S	C	P	A	D	T	S
N	F	M	R	I	A	S	E	I	N	L	E	I	A

Answer Key:

A	I	E	T	N	I	E	S	A	V	I	R	M	F	N
S	C	D	V	P	C	S	B	L	V	I	N	N		
T	C	W	N	O	I	A	B	E	T	E				
N	E	O	I	V	R	C	G	N	I	S	I	T		
E	J	S	I	R	S	T	P	A	O	S	N	S		
W	O	S	A	V	P	A	V	O	V	A	G			
R	E	O	R	A	N	E	D	O	W	T	W	R		
C	P	L	W	S	V	A	V	T	L	C	A	D		
N	P	B	E	W	N	A	R	O	O	D	O	D		
W	B	P	V	I	I	E	L	E	C	E	P	C		
W	O	P	W	L	P	O	I	A	P	P	E	P		
O	I	R	O	G	D	N	N	A	V	S	S	W		
C	L	U	A	V	W	O	D	P	D	T	C	N		



SYDNEY ALLABAUGH EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Major: Communication Studies
Minor: Women's
and Gender Studies

When I decided to major in Communication Studies, I was primarily interested in television and video. I never imagined I would take such an interest in writing and editing. I initially joined The Beacon intending to be a photographer or videographer, but after my first meeting, I decided to try writing for the opinion section and was welcomed warmly.

I quickly developed a love for opinion writing and later discovered an interest in editing after becoming assistant editor, then editor of the opinion section. Now, as editor-in-chief, I have become increasingly passionate about writing, editing, and news in general. The Beacon has allowed me to improve various skills and explore something I never saw for myself. I will miss working with such an incredible staff and the gratification of seeing our hard work in print. I am grateful for the experience and connections I made along the way.

SENIOR SEND OFF

MEGAN DAVIS SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

Major: Communication Studies
Minors: History, Women's
and Gender Studies



I joined The Beacon my senior year to help out as social media manager. I thought it would be a good way to get some experience in running a social media account for someone other than myself. The experience I gained here was useful in not only social media posting but creating graphics for posts as well. What I enjoyed most was seeing the different stories in The Beacon each week when it came out. My advice for people considering joining is to definitely get involved early. I think it's easier to see what you like early on rather than realizing you enjoyed a position your last year. Regardless, I am grateful for my time here and the friends I made along the way!



BRADY MELOVITZ

Layout Designer & News Staff Writer

Major: Communication Studies
Minor: Women's and Gender Studies, English

When I decided that I was going to be a communication major at Wilkes four years ago, I told myself that I would never join the newspaper. I just felt like I wasn't interested in it and for my first two years at Wilkes that remained true. However in my junior year something changed. I wanted to be more involved within the department so I joined the Beacon. At first it was just for the practicum credit, but through time I grew an appreciation for what we did at the Beacon.

I started out at the Beacon as a layout designer for the majority of my time. I would periodically write articles but that was only if there was no one else willing to do so. However, for my last semester I decided I wanted to write more articles to better prepare myself for what I might do outside of Wilkes. The Beacon allowed me to not only improve on skills like my writing, but also develop skills that I didn't have before. I am grateful for not only the opportunity I was given, but the experience that I gained.

ADAM GRUNDT

ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Major: Communication Studies
Minor: Sports Management



SAMANTHA MULLEN

ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

Major: Communication Studies

I started writing briefly for the Beacon my freshman year and quickly became interested in continuing. It wasn't until I started writing for sports my sophomore year that I really started to feel comfortable with writing. Since then, I have now become the Assistant Sports Editor and mainly focus on Athlete of the Week or taking photos of some of the sports teams here at Wilkes.

I think my biggest advice for anyone thinking about joining is to just try it out and see where you fit. I didn't initially start in the sports section, I first started covering news and then slowly moved into sports. Also during this time, I started to take photos and quickly grew a passion for taking sports photos. You never really know what will peak your interest until you try it.



ZACH PARAWAY

SPORTS EDITOR

Major: Communication Studies

I joined The Beacon during my first week on campus, having never written before. After I had gotten my feet under me with the help of staff, I was able to feel good about my writing and how to build articles. I wrote for news my first two years, before then moving on to be the Sports Editor in my senior year. I don't write as much now, doing mostly layout, but I do love to help the staff build a great paper

To anyone looking or thinking to join, just go for it. This group of people has been nothing short of amazing in helping to create a strong product and to make sure all strong writers, editors, and staff all throughout. I will always remember this great experience and am sad that it is coming to an end.

I joined The Beacon because it's always been a goal of mine to work in sports media. After working for The Beacon my sophomore year as a sports writer, I quickly became interested in developing my skills as a writer. From junior year until now, I've been an Assistant Sports Editor.

This experience with The Beacon will help me immensely. I have grown so much as a writer and a human being from being around such great people throughout the past three years with the Beacon. My favorite part of the experience was fulfilling what was a childhood dream of mine: writing about sports.

Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact assistant opinion editors: shawn.carey1@wilkes.edu or logan.colonna@wilkes.edu.

Editorial Staff 2024-25

MANAGERIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief - Sydney Allabaugh
Social Media Manager - Megan Davis
Adviser - Dr. Kalen Churcher

SECTION EDITORS

News - Leah Smith
Sports - Zach Paraway

ASSISTANT EDITORS

News - Andrew Marshallsay
Opinion - Logan Colonna
Opinion - Shawn Carey
Sports - Adam Grundt
Sports - Sam Mullen

DESIGNERS

Head Designer - Lara Mullen
Designer - Carol Stratford
Layout Designer - Brady Melovitz
Photographer - Shannon Slominski

SECTION STAFF WRITERS

News - Kayla Bicskei
LA&E - Natalia Williams
Opinion - "Freeze"
Sports - Ava Tureen
Sports - Lexi McHugh

141 S. Main Street
Clayton and Theresa Karambelas
Media & Communication Center
Wilkes University
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18766
Phone - (570) 408-5903
www.thewilkesbeacon.com

Want to advertise in *The Beacon*?
Contact: Kalen Churcher at
kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu or
Sydney Allabaugh at sydney.
allabaugh@wilkes.edu.



The Beacon
Est. 1936
Pa. Newspaper
Association Member

Our Voice

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

WrestleMania 41: Was John Cena's win the right call?

WrestleMania 41 was shocking to say the least, from the Seth Rollins heel turn and Paul Heyman betrayal on April 19, to the surprising WrestleMania debut of viral Total Nonstop Action (TNA) Wrestling champion Joe Hendry and the return of fan-favorite women's wrestler Becky Lynch on April 20.

However, the biggest shock of the event was the final match on WrestleMania Sunday where Cody Rhodes failed to defend his Undisputed championship against John Cena. By defeating Rhodes, Cena has won his 17th undisputed title, breaking Ric Flair's record of 16 world titles.

This came as a bit of a shock because of Rhodes's strong reign with the title that lasted for over a year. Cena came back and shocked the world prior to WrestleMania when he turned heel (for non-wrestling fans, it means becoming the bad guy) and sold out in favor of Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson. This led up to the match at WrestleMania.

The question is, did WWE make the

right decision to switch the title hand from the company's current cash cow to giving it to the man who several fans would refer to as the greatest of all time?

After putting emotional biases aside, this title change had to happen.

It's a tale as old as time in the WWE, the greatest faces of WWE have always had to come back from failure somehow. The "fallen hero" trope is one the most celebrated tropes in storytelling even outside of wrestling.

Fans regarded WrestleMania 39 and 40 to be the "Avengers: Infinity War" and "Avengers: Endgame" of the WWE in regards to Cody Rhodes and Roman Reigns's rivalry. This comparison is made based on the endings of those films and how they correlate to their rivalry. Villain wins first, but the hero comes back and takes the well-earned victory.

At WrestleMania 39, fans believed Cody would finally win the Undisputed title against Roman Reigns. After one Samoan Spike from Roman's former enforcer Solo Sikoa, that chance was out

the window.

However, at WrestleMania 40, Cody finally beat Reigns in a hard-fought match filled with appearances in favor of both wrestlers such as Seth Rollins, the Usos, and the Undertaker.

This is the key not only for Cody Rhodes's support from fans, but for making a face of the company truly historic. Having the hero, essentially, of the company win the gold he's been chasing for, finishing the story that's been building since he's returned and lost it after more than a year of holding that title from a man who used to be that hero Rhodes now is.

This is wrestling storytelling at its finest and WWE made the right call to have Cody Rhodes lose to have John Cena win his 17th championship.

Cena not only deserves to break that record but it builds up the inevitable rematch between Rhodes and Cena to be even more special. It's just a matter of when that rematch will take place and whose side the fans will be on.

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: sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu

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

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

Trump's second term and the battle for America's future

By **G. Wyane McCormick**

Submission to The Beacon

As I am writing this it has been 70 days since Donald Trump was inaugurated for his second term.

In that time his administration has done the following:

- Abruptly fired tens of thousands of federal employees without consideration of their role, contribution or wellbeing.
- Planned to purge historic references to the military contributions of people of color and women on Department of Defense sites.

- Declared there is an “improper ideology” that is taught through our museums and has tasked the Vice President with removing what they consider inappropriate.
- Pressured non-government institutions to change their policies through economic threat.
- Violated the First Amendment by stating there are “illegal” protests and threatening to prosecute and deport foreign students who participate.
- Allowed The Department of Homeland Security to deny detainees rights to due process.
- Promised on the campaign trail that

he had no intention of implementing Project 2025. It currently stands 1/3 implemented with no signs of slowing down.

- Mishandled operational security and then downplayed it.
- Has not ruled out running for a third term, stating “there are methods which you could do it.”

If arguable constitutional violations, a complete disregard of rights and legal proceedings, a broad naming of whole ethnic groups as enemies, a whitewashing of American history, or any other repugnant act committed by this presidential administration is not

your line in the sand, then what is?

How much further down this rabbit hole of insanity do we have to fall before action is taken?

I do not have these answers for anyone else, but I believe it is time to unite as a community and decide what we can do to resist.

When learning about times of strife, if you ever wondered if you would be able to stand up while others were afraid, now is your chance.

If anyone would like to speak further about this, I will be on the Greenway from noon to one, Monday through Friday until the end of the semester.

The Icebox: Presenting platform shooter game “Cuphead”

By **“Freeze”**

Opinion Staff Writer

It's that time of the year again where the final issue of the semester is published. If you want to be sure you haven't missed anything, you can visit my page on the official website for the Wilkes Beacon.

In today's issue of the Icebox, I will unravel a timeless classic that truly tests your patience.

Recently, my friend and I decided to do a run of Cuphead together. While both of us had briefly tried it on our own time before, we never properly developed a good impression of the game.

Cuphead is a two-dimensional platform shooter game with a focus on boss battles and run-and-gun style levels.

Originally released in 2017 by Studio MDHR, this indie game quickly rose to popularity when players discovered how challenging it was. Furthermore, the art style is very eye-catching, as it resembles old cartoons like the first Mickey Mouse. The most impressive feature is that the entire game was drawn by hand, including every frame of movement for the characters. Only indie developers would go to such lengths to create a game purely out of passion. Cuphead also features a soundtrack composed by jazz musicians to fit the 1930s rubber hose animation.

The story begins when Cuphead and

his brother, Mugman, venture too far from their home in Inkwell Isle and stumble upon the Devil's Casino. They start a winning streak at the craps table before being confronted by the Devil himself, who makes an offer. If they win the next round, they win everything in the casino. If they lose, he gets their souls. Cuphead accepts the offer and loses, costing him and his brother all their winnings and placing them in quite an unfortunate situation.

The Devil decides that he might spare them if they did his dirty work, which meant harvesting the souls of previous debtors. Cuphead and Mugman agree as it is their only way of escaping eternal damnation and set off to find the debtors.

The game mechanics are introduced in the tutorial. There is moving, jumping, ducking and dashing either on the ground or in the air. By pressing the associating button, you can shoot a finger gun and aim it multi-directionally, including diagonal. There is a mechanic to “lock” Cuphead or Mugman in place so they don't move while they are shooting, which is useful in boss battles. Finally, there is a jumping mechanic called parry, which in this game happens by pressing jump on a red object. The parry allows you to eliminate a red target by jumping on it without taking damage. Parries also charge your special moves.

Special abilities come with items that

you must purchase from the shop. The thing about currency is that you have to collect it manually during the running levels and they are not easy to get. Upon the start of the game, you should be very careful with what items you purchase. My friend and I made the wise decision to get the charm that makes you invincible while dashing. Without that item, we would be spending at least double the time beating some of the bosses.

There are purchasable weapons and you can swap between two weapons that are equipped. For example, a shotgun that does more damage in spread but has less distance or a chaser gun that has a homing mechanic but does less damage. They each have their own special power, represented by cards that you can charge by parrying or doing damage. When you have five cards, you can automatically do a super move that is also swappable in the inventory.

My friend decided to equip the shotgun while I took the chaser. We realized this combination would be best suited for running through levels and handling boss fights.

At some point we realized that I was better at surviving and he was better at parrying, so we took advantage of that to beat the bosses. Although, my friend ended up purchasing an extra hitpoint since three was definitely not enough for him.

Anyone who has played Cuphead will tell you that it's challenging, especially on the first run. The developers account for every possibility in their level designs, forcing players to have the most precise movement in order to succeed. The game only gets more difficult, especially after you think it couldn't possibly be harder.

I don't recommend playing Cuphead co-op through Steam sharing unless you're up for a real challenge. The lag makes it way harder to keep up.

**READ MORE OF
THE ICEBOX
ONLINE**



Students must take action: Neutrality helps oppressors

By Johnny Sudol & Jace Hynick

Submission to The Beacon

There's a famous post-WWII poem called "First They Came." It goes as follows:

First, they came for the
Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist

Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist

Then they came for the trade
unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist

Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew

Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me

Dear Students of Wilkes University,
The time to speak out is now.

Our generation has been pressured to be the change our world needs to heal. However, we are living in a world where chaos has become the new normal.

We live in a time that leaves many feeling isolated and hopeless. We are expected to carry the torch, to be better, to societally progress and to fight a failing system.

It may seem like we do not have the tools to stand up against the inequalities dragging us down, but we do. Throughout history, every revolution that occurred had young adults like us standing at the forefront, fighting for freedom.

You may ask, "Freedom from what?"

It's a fair question to ask, since the oppression one person faces may be different to the oppression another faces. Maybe you experience racism, classism or ideological oppression,

etc. However, if we all stand up then we'll stand united.

And if you personally do not feel oppressed or at all affected by the current political climate, we urge you to consider the words of the poem prior. If you wait to step in and stand up for others until you are directly affected by the conflict, you may wake up to find there is no one left to fight with you.

We have reached a tumultuous and historic point in our nation's social, political and economic climate, and the time has come to rise against authoritarian threats.

This is not a memorandum; this is a call to action.

The future of educated America is now uncertain. The fact of the matter is that no one knows what is in store for us students here in the U.S.—and yes, that still includes Wilkes.

The Department of Education has been plunged into complete disarray, leaving us unaware of its impact on the future of K-12 education. So, if you have loved ones and friends still in primary or secondary education, this situation should deeply concern you.

We've already watched as almost all of the bigger, elitist, Ivy League schools rolled over to the Trump Administration—as he holds their federal funding over their heads.

The question is: Will Wilkes be next? We would like to feel safe and protected by our university from this unprecedented threat, but the future is uncertain.

According to AP News:

Rümeysa Öztürk, a Turkish doctoral student at Tufts University who publicly expressed support of Palestinian causes, was recently detained by authorities. Her student visa was revoked in what her lawyers say is apparent retaliation for an op-ed piece she co-wrote in the student newspaper.

Öztürk was taken by immigration officials as she walked along a street in the Boston suburb of Somerville. She was moved to an Immigration

and Customs Enforcement detention center in Basile, Louisiana.

Öztürk's lawyers say her detention violates her constitutional rights, including free speech and due process.

Öztürk isn't the only one. A Louisiana immigration judge ruled that the U.S. can deport Columbia University graduate student Mahmoud Khalil based on the federal government's argument that he poses a national security risk.

Others are being shipped to foreign prisons under false assumptions of criminality.

According to CBS News, the majority of immigrants sent to a maximum security prison in El Salvador have no apparent criminal convictions or even criminal charges.

Those innocent people are still imprisoned in El Salvador. This is the end result of the disregard of our constitutional protections of freedom of expression under the First Amendment and of the Due Process Clause under the Fifth Amendment.

This is the unfortunate reality we live in. Again, you may not be an immigrant. You may not be a political opponent to the Trump Administration. But you are a student. The Trump administration is already targeting universities; the future is uncertain.

So again, it is time to act. It is time to mobilize and to organize. To inflict steady pressure on the government, our elected officials and our university, to keep us safe and to act in our best interest.

We believe Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman (D), Sen. Dave McCormick (R) and Rep. Rob Bresnahan (R) are not currently acting in our best interest.

If we need to march, then we'll march. If we must protest, we'll protest. This is your education, your investment into your own self-worth. And unfortunately, we've entered a time where that is being challenged. Be willing to fight for what is yours. Be willing to do what may feel scary and

force yourself to be brave.

This may be the defining moment in your life, maybe the page in the history books our generation will be tied to. So you need to be asking yourself, which side are you on?

There's no longer any room to remain neutral. Neutrality only helps the oppressor, never the oppressed. This is your opportunity to make sure you're on the right side of history.

Is this a political conflict?

Absolutely.

But does it also transcend partisanship?

Absolutely.

If only this were as simple as elementary identity politics: Red vs. Blue, Democrat vs. Republican, Liberal vs. Conservative. It's not. It's bigger than all of that, bigger than all of us.

This is for the soul of our nation and for the pledge we gave to it. It is imperative for the survival of America that we don't let them become empty words and that we'll *actually* protect **liberty and justice for all.**

We also urge you to call the local offices of Pennsylvania elected officials to make your voice heard:

Sen. John Fetterman: (570) 820-4088

Sen. Dave McCormick: (570) 941-0930

Rep. Rob Bresnahan: (570) 763-6120

-Johnny Sudol, Jace Hynick & Anonymous

For any questions, comments, concerns or if you want to get involved, contact jace.hynick@wilkes.edu or john.sudol@wilkes.edu

What caused “A Minecraft Movie” to succeed?

A deep dive into the memes and impact on pop culture

By Shawn Carey
Asst. Opinion Editor

The very thought of making a movie about “Minecraft” is inherently silly.

I’m sure that most of you know what “Minecraft” is. For those of you who have been living underneath a rock for the past 10 years. “Minecraft” is a sandbox game developed by Mojang Studios that allows players to explore a vast open world, build, mine, and you guess it, craft.

Minecraft is well deserving extremely popular. The game sold over 300 million copies, making it the best selling game of all time.

One of the reasons for the game’s massive success is the freedom it offers the player. The game allows players to do pretty much whatever they want. Solo or with a group of friends.

The game lacks a clear goal. Sure there’s a few major advancements that the player can achieve such as defeating the Ender Dragon and completing a Woodland Mansion. However, there’s nothing that really signifies “an ending.”

With that being said, how do you make a feature length film about a game that doesn’t have a story? How can you make an adaptation based on a game where you can do anything?

You hire Jack Black to play the leading character.

It was recently reported that “A Minecraft Movie” is set to end its theatrical run with an estimated earnings of over a billion dollars. Not only making it one of the biggest video game movies of all time, but one of the highest grossing movies of all time.

The success of “A Minecraft Movie” has been surprising to say the very least. When the film was originally announced it was faced with harsh criticism. That would be until the release of the first teaser, in which it was faced with even harsher criticism.

The movie was constantly made fun of by everyone online, so much so that it was hard to find even a single person excited for it.

The numbers don’t lie however, the movie is a resounding success. Which begs the question, how?

One of the main things contributing to its popularity is a simple phrase. Chicken Jockey. Just typing the word out makes me want to jump up and clap.

When the movie was originally making its rounds on the internet users were quick to make fun of the way Jack Black pronounced certain words.

In the original trailer Jack Black was constantly over pronouncing many words from the games. “Flint and steel,” “diamond armor” and “Nether portal,” for example.

Clips of the actor saying these phrases quickly spread across the internet, mainly on TikTok. Edited videos of him saying these phrases were everywhere. Videos of him slowed down, sped up, backwards and so on.

The most popular of these phrases is the previously mentioned “chicken jockey.”

As silly as it sounds, “chicken jockey” took on a life of its own. It became a popular trend to stand up, scream, spill popcorn and just be overall obnoxious when the scene showed up in the movie.

The trend became extremely popular among teenagers and young adults, mostly men. Much like the “gentleminions” trend from a few years ago, a sense of FOMO (fear of missing out) was created.

Everyone wants to get to the theater, act like an idiot and post a video of them doing so online before the movie is pulled from theaters. “A Minecraft Movie” is



strangely enough getting young people to go to the theater.

This stupid trend is of course not the only reason why the movie is doing well. It’s “Minecraft.” There’s no doubt that it was going to be a hit. Kids love it, families love it, everyone loves “Minecraft.”

However, I think that there’s something to be said about the effect the internet has had on the movie. A movie that would’ve been fairly successful on its own terms is now set to soon be a billion dollar hit.

I’m going to go out on a limb and say that a movie about Jack Black fighting blocky CGI pig monsters probably didn’t appeal to most audiences. However, here we are.

There was a sort of unintentional marketing with everything. Most of the discussion surrounding the movie didn’t come from ads or trailers, but from “memes” and videos online. I’m sure that once the sequel comes out in however many years we’ll see the studio unsuccessfully recreate it.

Speaking of which, it wouldn’t surprise me if other studios try to do something similar, creating artificial “memes” for the sake of free advertising.

Imagine a “Fortnite” movie starring Ryan Gosling where he’s constantly repeating phrases like “griddy” and “item shop.”

Graphic by Carol Stratford

A review of "Soft Spot" by JMSN, an innovative album

An analysis of performance, features, production, replayability

By Logan Colonna

Asst. Opinion Editor

If you saw my recent review of R&B and alternative artist JMSN, you would know that I love just about everything that he's put out. More specifically, I loved his 2018 record "Velvet," his 2021 album "Heals Me," and his 2023 project "Soft Spot," which is the topic of this week's review.

"Soft Spot" pushes the boundaries of JMSN's music in a positive direction. I first loved him for his more soft songs with the typical sounds that you'd hear in R&B music. Now, I love him here for his experimental and alternative approach to his usual sound.

First, JMSN had amazing vocals throughout each of the nine tracks on the record. My favorite among the bunch is easily "Cherry Pop" and the title track "Soft Spot."

His vocal inflections on "Cherry Pop" made me fall in love with the song nearly instant. Along with this, his ad libs add onto the song greatly. In rap music, ad libs have certainly lost their "oomph." Here, however, JMSN uses each ad lib strategically in order to add on to the great vocal performance as well as the wonderfully-crafted production, which I'll get into later on in the review. Near the end of the song as a little outro, JMSN embraces the rock-inspired instrumentation and goes full rockstar mode as he yells into the mic, all while still sounding great.

As for "Soft Spot," we shift directions into more of a groovy kind of song. During the chorus of the track, which is easily my favorite part of the song, we get a high-pitched vocal performance by JMSN, which I am obviously a fan of. The song takes us through a roller coaster ride between the choruses and each verse, as the beat gets slower after each chorus, only to ramp back up after each verse. He makes sure to match this with the pitch of his voice excellently. Like I said for the "Heals Me" review, JMSN released a breakdown of each

track for the record. Seeing him break down "Soft Spot" was honestly something else.

Seeing the creative side of artists is just mesmerizing to me. As you could guess, every other song off of the record showcases JMSN's amazing vocals. If I

expect from Sada Baby, but I'm glad he's on the remix. His voice, flow and way he raps overall pairs excellently with the instrumental and JMSN's vibe on the track. With that, the feature here is great and adds a lot in terms of replayability even if it is just one

the beginning of the track, effectively setting the tone. You get these DJ scratches all throughout the track too, which just sounds nice when it's sprinkled here and there. As for my favorite part of the production, during the choruses, we get this nice electric guitar to pair with JMSN. Besides that, a lot of the track does go silent, allowing JMSN to show off his sweet, sweet vocals.

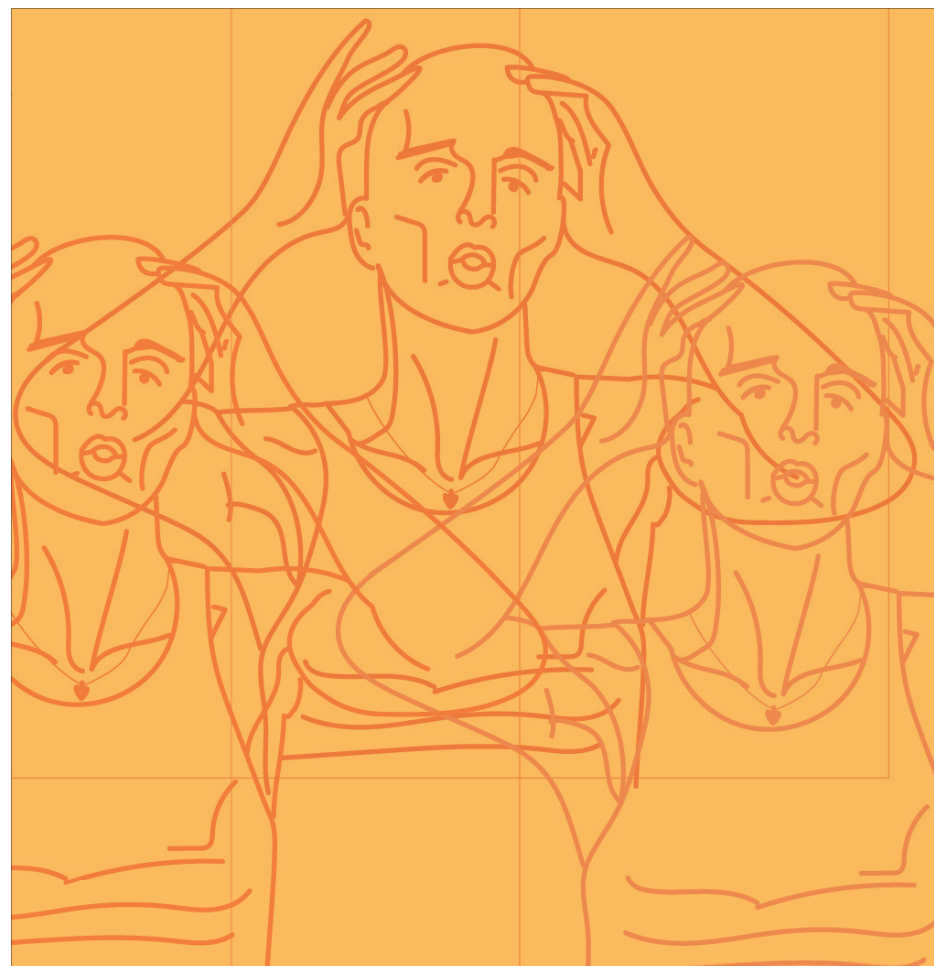
Moving onto "Groovy," the song itself is, well, groovy. You get this addicting electric guitar performance all throughout the song as well as a constant drum cymbal being hit, which just sounds great. The guitar and cymbal combo that you hear sometimes is unworldly in my opinion. This kind of addicting production is found all over the album, making for one of my favorite parts of the record. Just like his past record, everything is executively produced by JMSN as well, making it even more impressive that he makes these amazing instrumentals.

Finally, we have the replayability of the album. With all of the different sounds that the record offers, along with the short tracklist and runtime (nine songs and 40 minutes), I find no issue in replaying the record from front to back over and over again.

This may even be easier to relisten to than JMSN's previous record, "Heals Me," because of all of the different soundscapes from track to track. To top it off, each track is just really great, making it addicting to go back to each track after each listen.

As you can assume, this record is practically perfect to me, just like "Heals Me."

With that being said, JMSN gets his second 10 out of 10 from me with his 2023 record, "Soft Spot."



were to talk about them, we would be here all day though.

As for the album itself, there are no features to accompany JMSN on the tracklist. However, as a treat for fans, JMSN released a remix of "Soft Spot" (the title track) with rapper Sada Baby. At first, I didn't know what to expect since I thought the two artists would end up clashing too much in terms of sound. As a surprise, the track, especially Sada Baby's inclusion, is really good. I didn't know what to

feature out of the whole tracklist.

Next up, we have the production. As you could guess, it's nothing shy of perfect. As I said, the record goes from all kinds of sounds, like rock, R&B, alternative and experimental. All of these different sounds combine into this album wonderfully. My favorite tracks among the bunch, in terms of production, include "Not 4 U" and "Groovy."

"Not 4 U" offers a wide variety of sounds. You get this synth that plays in

Sports

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

Wilkes baseball kicks off weekend by honoring Julia Mazur

By Jake Mills
Contributing Writer

The Wilkes University baseball team went 1-2 this weekend against Landmark Conference opponent Susquehanna.

Saturday was a double header, with the Colonels dropping both games. Sunday they got the win 6-4 against the Riverhawks.

Zachary Lloyd got the start on the mound in game one. He pitched five innings, recording four strikeouts. Riley Jagger pitched for 2.2 innings also recording four strikeouts.

Wilkes wouldn't get on the board until the fourth inning when Andres Cruz and Zack Luksic scored off a double to center field by Devin Markert to make it a 3-2 game.

Game two saw Hunter Lawall getting the start on the mound. Lawall pitched 5.1 innings. He recorded seven strikeouts and allowed four runs on eight hits.

In the final of the three-game series,

Caleb Graham and Ethan Jezewsk each pitched three innings with each getting two strikeouts. AJ Levandoski pitched in relief for the Colonels. He recorded two strikeouts and one hit to help secure the 6-4 win.

Before the doubleheader on Saturday, an event was held for the Julia Hockey Mazur Foundation. The Julia Hockey Mazur Foundation was founded in honor of Julia Hockey Mazur, a Wilkes University student who died in November 2023 after a battle with stage four metastatic melanoma.

The Julia Hockey Mazur Foundation was founded in honor of Julia and to raise funds and awareness for Melanoma. The foundation also has "Julia's Kindness Crew," which assists in helping those dealing with sickness, unexpected situations and the daily hurdles of life.

Carey Mazur, Julia's mother, threw out the first pitch in Saturday's doubleheader. The game was in honor of Julia.

Photos by Andrew Marshallsay



Carey Mazur, Julia Mazur's mother, and catcher/first baseman Mike Sabella.



Carey Mazur throws out the first pitch in Saturday's doubleheader.



Wilkes baseball team and Carey Mazur on the baseball field.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins season ends prematurely

Recapping the team's playoff games

By Adam Grunt
Asst. Sports Editor

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins' season was cut short by the Lehigh Valley Phantoms for the second year in a row during the first round of the American Hockey League's Calder Cup Playoffs.

The No. 4-seeded Penguins team faced off against the number 5-seeded Phantoms squad in a best-of-three series that lasted only two games. Last season, the No. 6-seeded Lehigh Valley Phantoms upset the No. 3-seeded Penguins in the same series. With a youthful group taking the ice at Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza this season, the team looked to enact revenge on their bitter rival en route to a deep playoff run.

Game 1: PENGUINS 2 vs. PHANTOMS 5

The first game of the short series was played on April 23 at Mohegan Sun Arena at Casey Plaza in Wilkes-Barre, and the Phantoms took a commanding 1-0 series lead with a 5-2 victory.

Olle Lycksell tallied the only first

period goal for Lehigh Valley, and a red-hot Alex Bump and Rodrigo Ábols tacked on two more during the second for the Phantoms.

During the second period, Penguins netminder Joel Blomqvist suffered an injury that forced him out of the game, and Taylor Gauthier, who tallied a shutout in the team's final game of the regular season, was tasked with finishing the game for Wilkes-Barre/Scranton.

Bump added his second of the night in the first half of the third frame, and Anthony Richard scored the fifth goal of the night for the Phantoms one minute and 33 seconds later.

Avery Hayes scored for the Penguins with just under five minutes to go in regulation, and Gabe Klassen tacked on another goal for Wilkes-Barre/Scranton a minute before the final buzzer.

"Honestly you could feel a bit of the nerves early," said head coach Kirk MacDonald during his media availability following game one. "[Lehigh Valley] came out with a good push, but I think we were just really tentative. I thought after the first goal we settled down, but

they kept pushing."

Game 2: PENGUINS 2 at PHANTOMS 3

A tense game two at PPL Center in Allentown ensued on April 25.

Goaltender Sergei Murashov, who posted an 11-game winning streak during the regular season, was recalled from ECHL Wheeling to make the start for Wilkes-Barre/Scranton in game two between the pipes.

After a scoreless first frame, Richard tallied his second of the playoffs for Lehigh Valley to give the Phantoms a 1-0 lead.

However, before the end of the middle stanza, Tristan Broz launched a wicked wrister that snuck through the pads of Lehigh Valley netminder Parker Gahagen.

Harrison Brunicke scored the first goal of his professional career in a massive moment, giving the Penguins the lead for the time being with 13 minutes remaining in regulation. The rookie blueline entered the offensive zone and lofted a puck from the blue line that fluttered over Gahagen and

into the back of the net.

However, Jacob Gaucher scored for Lehigh Valley to tie the game and just a minute and 28 seconds later, and with exactly two minutes remaining in regulation, Helge Grans scored the game-winner and series-clincher for Lehigh Valley.

"We made three critical errors and they all ended up in the back of our net," said MacDonald following Game 2 at PPL Center. "I thought we were great. The guys made the adjustments we needed to make; we won the special teams battle. We had some great looks. Our young guys really stepped up.

"Trust me when I say [the guys] wanted to be here, and they're crushed. You get to these best-of-threes, and you have one off night and all of a sudden, you're on the brink of elimination. It's tough."

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins return to action at Mohegan Arena in the fall of 2025. For more information on the Penguins, visit wbspenguins.com.

Wilkes softball will soon wrap up: A recap of last week's games

By Ava Tureen
Sports Staff Writer

The Wilkes softball season had two doubleheaders this past week. In each doubleheader, they won one of the two games they played.

Their first double header of the week was against the Colonels' rivals, King's College.

The Colonels won the first game 4-1. Allyson Stafursky, Olivia Dougher, Maddy Maloney and Abby Cruz all crossed the home plate, resulting in the four total points the Colonels had during the first game. One out of three of Stafursky's hits led to her crossing home plate.

The second game of the double header was won by King's College with a score

of 0-4. Kings scored their first two points during the second inning, with one run after the other. It was the beginning of their comeback in game two.

The second doubleheader was against Susquehanna University, and like the first doubleheader, the Colonels won their first game and lost their second game.

The Colonels had a great start to their first game with a score of 6-3. Talia Piragas helped Mia Butka score the first point for the Colonels after an error.

In the second inning, Susquehanna scored its first point, and the colonels responded by scoring three more points during the third inning.

Kayla Burselson scored the final point of the first game during the seventh inning. Mia Butka pitched the entire

game and had three successful hits.

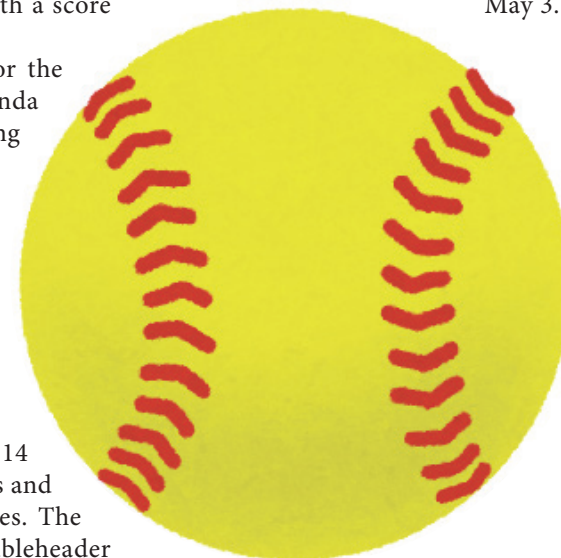
The second game of the doubleheader was a loss for the Colonels with a score of 4-6.

Lauren Demarco pitched for the first four innings, and Amanda Amerman finished off pitching for the last three innings.

The Colonels opened the scoreboard when Hana Cross scored the first point of the game. Susquehanna won the game after scoring five points in the fifth inning and another point during the final inning.

The Colonels had a total of 14 points during their four games and won two out of the four games. The Colonels play their last doubleheader

of the season against Elizabethtown College on May 3.



JOIN THE BEACON!

We're looking for...

Writers & Photographers

News, LA&E, Opinion, Sports

Designers

Graphics, Layout

Managers

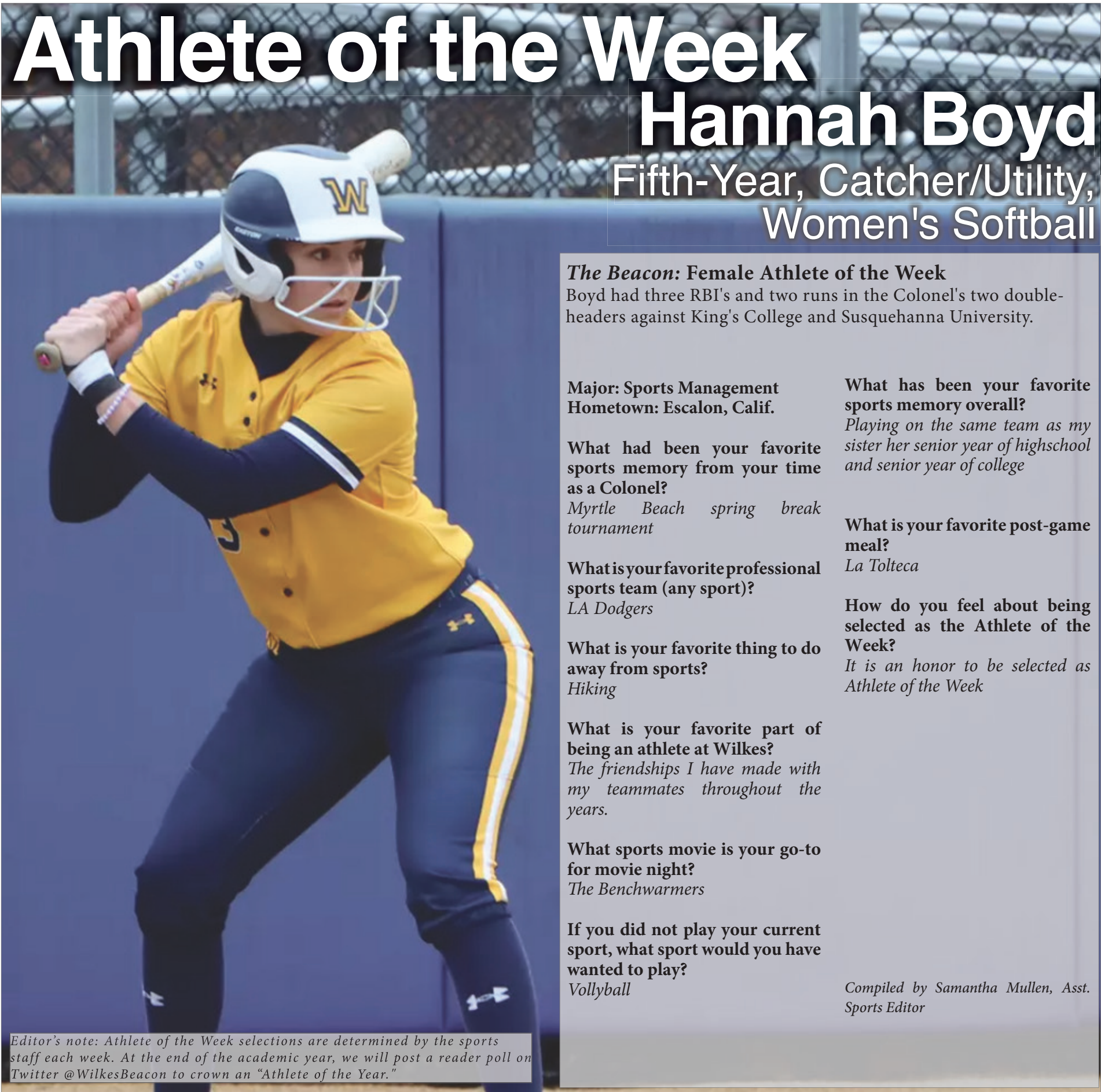
Distribution, Advertising

Contact:

kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu

sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu





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

Hannah Boyd

Fifth-Year, Catcher/Utility,
Women's Softball

The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week
Boyd had three RBI's and two runs in the Colonel's two double-headers against King's College and Susquehanna University.

Major: Sports Management
Hometown: Escalon, Calif.

What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?
Myrtle Beach spring break tournament

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

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?
Hiking

What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?
The friendships I have made with my teammates throughout the years.

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

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

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?
Playing on the same team as my sister her senior year of highschool and senior year of college

What is your favorite post-game meal?
La Tolteca

How do you feel about being selected as the Athlete of the Week?
It is an honor to be selected as Athlete of the Week

Compiled by Samantha Mullen, Asst. Sports Editor

Athlete of the Week

AJ Levandoski

First-Year, Pitcher, Men's Baseball

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week

Levandowski pitched seven strikeouts and allowing only one run in the 9-8 win over Moravian University. In the game against Lycoming College, he had 8 strikeouts in the 5-0 win.

Major: Middle Level Education

Hometown: Scranton, Pa.

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

Favorite sports memory as a Colonel has to be sweeping Elizabethtown during our first week of conference play.

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

Boston Red Sox

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Playing card games with my friends

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

Favorite part about being an athlete at Wilkes is definitely the family aspect of it. Everyone likes each other and plays for each other.

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

Major League II

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

If I didn't play baseball I'd love to golf

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Favorite sports memory ever was my last game my senior year of high school. I recorded my 200th strikeout and was named 1st Team All State; the first in school history.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Chick-Fil-A

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

It's an honor to be selected as the athlete of the week, and I wouldn't have been to without the help from my teammates and the coaching staff.

Compiled by Samantha Mullen, Assistant Sports Editor

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."



WILKES UNIVERSITY STUDENT HOUSING FOR 2025-26

>>> It's time to secure your room!

We offer the best in affordable off-campus housing and are only steps away from your classes!

Our apartments are:

- ✓ Clean, safe, affordable, and fully-furnished! Rent INCLUDES ALL UTILITIES and WIFI
- ✓ Close to Wilkes! Located on the edge of campus between Sullivan, Michelini, and Barre Halls.
- ✓ Mom and Dad approved! If you are trying to get an apartment and Mom says no, call us. Moms love us!
- ✓ Lock in before rates go up!



570-592-3113

Call for a tour today!

Still available:

West River Lofts: 1 bedroom
South River: (2) 3 bedroom apts
Gibbons Mansion: 1 single room

Visit us on our socials and see our properties!



Instagram



Website

ZN
PROPERTIES

*In-person tours are available
on Wednesdays and Thursdays*
www.znproperties.com
Call us at 570-592-3113

Interested in joining The Beacon?

The Beacon
is currently
looking to fill
the following
positions for next
year's staff:

Reporters

Photographers

Designers

Editors

Production
Managers

Advertising Reps

For more details,
please email...

**kalen.churcher@
wilkes.edu**