



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

Puppies & Plushies event puts a pep in everyone's step

By Natalia Williams

Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff Writer

The Programming Board opened up the month of February with a brand new event, one that included some friendly and furry little friends.

The Programming Board hosted the Puppies and Plushies event on Thursday and it is one that warmed the hearts of dog lovers all around campus. Thursday's event wasn't just a regular event, it served as a community service event to help The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, or SPCA.

The SPCA helps find homes for once abused and abandoned animals. They also help educate about animal welfare. The SPCA brought over puppies and dogs that were available for adoption. The moment they had entered, the dogs were extremely excited to receive some love from all the students.

"I've always wanted to do some-

thing to help out with the SPCA," said third year nursing major and secretary of programming Board, Lauren Beaver. "Madie came up with the idea with the plushies."

Students were also able to give back to the SPCA and they were able to donate things for dogs in need such as paper towels, gently used blankets and towels to be entered in a raffle. The SPCA were also accepting cash donations. A door prize raffle was also held.

Prizes included an "Animal Crossing" themed monopoly game, an Owala water bottle, Fujifilm Instax Mini 40 Camera, a beginners crocheting kit and a human sized dog bed. Students were able to pick out a plushie from an assortment of adorable different animals such as teddy bears, koalas, zebras and so much more. Then they were able to

Puppies cont. page 10



The Beacon/Natalia Williams

Emma Raville hugging "Boy" at Puppies & Plushies.



All Belgium Waffles introduces their new storefront, page 6



Vision board event allows students to look forward, page 7



It's time to stop hating on the 10-year-old girls at Sephora, page 16



Wrestling golden age, page 17

News

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

Programming board spring schedule of events



Table of Contents

News.....	2
Life, A&E.....	6
Opinion.....	14
Sports.....	19

Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

Free Rock Climbing in the MAC

On Mondays and Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m., WAE hosts free rock climbing in the MAC. There is no registration required, and anyone can participate.

Become an e-Mentor

The Office of Student Development is now accepting student e-Mentor applications for the Fall 2024 semester.

A First Year Student e-Mentor is a full-time, undergraduate student trained to provide support to 12-25 new students. e-Mentors are student leaders who have a variety of campus experiences.

Fill out the application using this link: <https://www.wilkes.edu/campus-life/student-development/leadership-opportunities/e-mentors/index.aspx>.

Contact Stacy Mullen at stacy.mullen@wilkes.edu or 570.408.4645 with any questions.

Spring Intramural Sports

Registration is now open for intramural sports this spring. The season begins Feb. 19 and ends March 27. Sports offered are soccer (Mondays/Thursdays), basketball (Tuesdays), dodgeball (Wednesdays) and volleyball (Wednesdays).

Register yourself and your team on IMleagues.com before the start of the season. Any questions contact casey.carpenter@wilkes.edu.

Patagonia Quarter Zips for Sale

Industry Pharmacists Organization (IPhO) is selling Wilkes Patagonia Quarter Zips. Sales will close on Feb. 14. Jackets will be available for pick up on campus at select dates/times.

Use this link to purchase: wilkes.edu/IPhOSweaters.

Alumni Scholarship Opportunity

The Alumni Scholarship is awarded annually to a current Wilkes undergraduate student who has a parent or grandparent who graduated from Wilkes, has at least a 3.0 GPA and has a FAFSA on file for the 2024-2025 academic year. Deadline to apply is March 17, 2024.

Use this link to apply: www.community.wilkes.edu/alumnischolarship.

Contact alumni@wilkes.edu with any questions.

Kappa Kappa Psi Talent Show Interest Form

Wilke University's music fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi, would like to host a talent show this semester. Anyone is allowed to sign up.

Fill out this form if you are interested: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdnAmAtuUyJOxInXXPiLyKY9pzb_uMCsOenMyDopx-6RT6lVQ/viewform.

Upcoming Events: 2024 Spring Semester

February

8 - Pickles-Barre
10 - King of Prussia Shopping Trip
15 - Music BINGO
22 - Family Feud
25 - Ice Skating at Revolution Ice
29 - Giveaway One

March

14 - Adventure BINGO
17 - Orangetheory Fitness Class
21 - Laser Tag

April

4 - Everything but the Kitchen Sink
7 - Bye Bye BINGO

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu

History in the making: First death penalty by nitrogen gas

A bold move or a controversial shift in capital punishment?

By Amanda Montgomery

News Editor

In a historic turn of events, the United States witnessed its first death penalty execution using nitrogen gas, sparking a heated debate over the ethics and implications of this unconventional method.

The execution, conducted in Alabama, marks a departure from traditional lethal injection practices, prompting questions about the future of capital punishment in the country.

Alabama's decision to execute Kenneth Smith, a 58-years-old, convicted murderer and hitman, using nitrogen gas comes from a nationwide struggle to secure the drugs needed for lethal injections.

Dr. Kyle Kreider, political science professor and department chair, explained that the three-drug cocktail that would put people to death in a more "humane fashion" is not doing what we think it does, as there are no outward signs of pain.

"Alabama said, 'you're going to deny us the three-drug cocktail, then we're going to use this nitrogen gas,'" said Kreider. "So that's how we're here today, it's because of the opponents of the death penalty kind of forcing the pharmaceutical companies not to sell it to the states for that purpose."

The search for alternatives, prompted by difficulties in obtaining conventional lethal injection drugs, has led to the emergence of nitrogen gas as an execution method.

To understand the gravity of this shift in capital punishment, Dr. Paul Riggs, dean of Arts and Sciences, provides a historical perspective.

"Until the twentieth century, hanging was the most common method used to carry out the death penalty," said Riggs. "Concerns about its supposed painlessness led to a search for new methods, such as electrocution and the gas chamber."

He also explained that lethal injection

was developed in the late 1970s as an alternative to prior methods, and was first used in Texas in 1982.

"In recent years, legal challenges to lethal injection have questioned its painlessness, and drug companies are now refusing to sell these drugs to states for this purpose," said Riggs. "This has led to proposals and plans, in those states that still have the death penalty, to use older methods (like electrocution or firing squad) or to develop new methods, such as this new asphyxiation by nitrogen gas process."

There are also legal and ethical considerations that surround the use of nitrogen gas in executions. Dr. Andy Wilczak, a s s o c i a t e professor and associate dean of Arts and Sciences emphasizes this.

"There's a majority of the states that don't have capital punishment anymore, or have placed an indefinite moratorium on it as they kind of explore it," said Wilczak.

In the discussion for the potential future of nitrogen gas execution, Dr. Kreider predicts that it will be used more often.

"I think you might see a movement in this direction because it allows them to continue to execute those who have committed first-degree murder in a way that, at least to one group, is humane," said Kreider.

Dr. Riggs notes that public sentiment is gradually turning away from capital punishment.

"American public opinion has gradually turned away from capital punishment over the course of the 20th century and into the 21st, though not as decisively

as in other western democracies," said Riggs.

As the debate rages on, with legal, ethical, and cultural considerations being discussed, the future of nitrogen gas as an execution method remains uncertain. The execution in Alabama has not only ignited discussions on the constitutionality of this approach, but also raised broader questions about the role of capital punishment in a changing societal landscape.

Kreider provides a glimpse into the potential widespread adoption of nitrogen gas execution.

"I think you might see a movement in this direction because it allows them to continue to execute those who have committed first-degree murder, but the jury has said it's worthy of the death penalty, and do it in a way that, at least to one group, is humane," said Kreider.

Wilczak adds a cautionary note, raising concerns about the lack of testing and transparency regarding the humanity of nitrogen gas execution.

"The reports from the execution said that he seemed like he held his breath for as long as he could and then went into hypoxia," said Wilczak. "It does not seem like it was this peaceful, just drifting off to sleep kind of thing."

Riggs explained that our Eighth Amendment, aimed at humane punishment, is at the center of the ongoing debate on whether the new nitrogen gas method qualifies as 'cruel and unusual.'

ABC News published an article on Jan. 30 that addresses Ohio's new law regarding nitrogen gas being used as a

new execution method.

"Ohio lawmakers have introduced a bill that would allow execution by nitrogen gas, a controversial practice critics call untested and lacking in evidence that it's more humane than lethal injection, after Alabama became the first state to execute someone with nitrogen gas," said Mary Kekatos, ABC News.

Alabama's utilization of nitrogen hypoxia as a form of execution prompted Ohio state representatives, Phil Plummer and Brian Stewart, to propose legislation allowing executions via nitrogen gas.

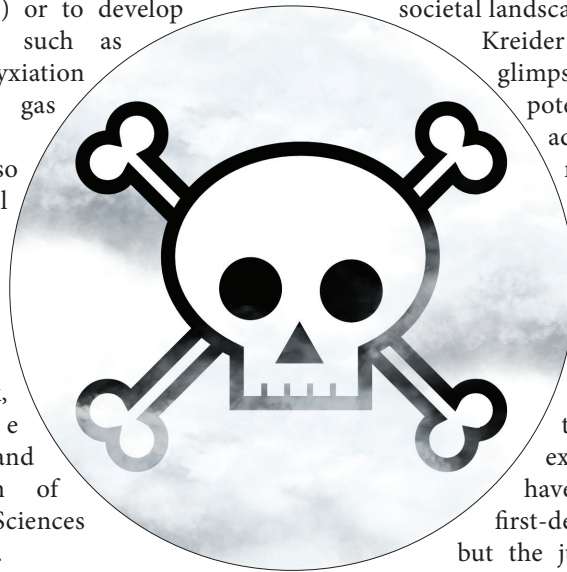
"The legislation introduced by Rep. Plummer and I will authorize the state of Ohio to utilize nitrogen hypoxia, in addition to lethal injection, and directed [that] it shall be used in instances where lethal injection is not an available means of carrying out a capital sentence," said Stewart during a press conference.

While this execution is controversial apart from the execution method, calls have emerged to spare Smith's life based on the previous failed attempt to put him to death. Bryan Stevensen, founder and director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a non-profit opposed to excessive criminal punishment that advocates on behalf of death row inmates, emphasized the state's lack of competence in the execution process.

"Since that time, we've been arguing that the state doesn't have the competency to carry out these executions," said Stevenson to CNN. "They switched the method, and now they're saying they have the skill to carry out a method that's untested and never been used before."

Wilczak cautions everyone to be mindful of those on death row.

"There are innocent people sitting on death row who might be executed using this apparently very horrific method. And what does that say about us that we are really just willing to go ahead with this without taking time to stop and consider the morality of what we're doing rather than just focusing on the politics of this."



What is... Wilkes University's Resident Hall Council?

By Morgan Steiner
Contributing Writer

This column has focused on mega councils dedicated to programming, cultural identities and commuter life. There is one last mega council, the Residence Hall Council, or RHC, that focuses on providing programming and events catered to residential students.

RHC is the foil to the Commuter Council. Whereas one focuses on events and opportunities for commuters, the other provides unique opportunities for the students who call the residence halls "home".

Amy Hunter, the assistant director of residence life, serves as the advisor to RHC. She says that her favorite part of working with the club is learning the process.

"Not only do I guide the RHC members in decision making, but they are also teaching me about different aspects of

campus and Residence Life. They are a breath of fresh air when searching for new ideas and ways to build community in the halls," said Hunter.

Melissa Ooi, a sophomore biochemistry major, is Vice President of RHC. She first got involved because she heard it was beneficial for students interested in becoming RAs.

"After learning more about what RHC does involving student and residence life, I thought I was more suited to helping RAs from behind the scenes instead of becoming one. This led me to join the executive board," said Ooi.

RHC hosts all kinds of events, from Pop Ups to Movie Nights. To begin the year, RHC hosted their annual Movie Night during Welcome Weekend. Students watched *Monsters University* in the JPAC and enjoyed snacks and free blankets, courtesy of RHC. Another campus favorite is Deck the Halls, a yearly door-decorating contest. Residents are welcome

to decorate their doors in holiday garb for the chance to win a prize and be featured on the RHC Instagram.

One of the most common RHC events is Pop Ups. Whether in the Residence Hall or in the SUB, RHC loves to surprise students with unique opportunities. In the fall of 2023, RHC celebrated chocolate milkshake day by giving away chocolate and vanilla milkshakes and reusable straws in the SUB.

Since then, RHC has worked to get into the Residence Halls, hosting different, unique events for the different halls. Two distinct events include a pop up on the second floor of Evans Hall to celebrate National Hispanic Heritage Month in September and a Gingerbread House Making Pop Up in Waller Hall.

Ooi said Pop Ups were her favorite events because, "...it's always fun to randomly surprise the residents with food and a fun time."

Despite all the fun events hosted by

RHC, students don't know much about the club. Hunter said she wishes students knew all the support that RHC makes available for them.

"RHC provides extra funding for our RAs to implement community programs within the residence halls. This allows all residents to partake in fun activities that are educational as well as recreational," said Hunter.

As for Ooi, she said she wishes students knew that General Board meetings were open to the general public.

"They usually help the executive board come up with event ideas and help execute those plans," said Ooi.

To get involved with RHC, you can email rhc@wilkes.edu for more information or follow them on Instagram @wilkes_rhc. In the meantime, you can join RHC for a Superbowl Pregame Giveaway on February 8 and a Lunar New Year Celebration with the Office of Global Engagement on Feb. 12.



Waller Hall residents Luke Mauro (L) and Kensity Edmond (R.) celebrate the holiday season with a pop-up party sponsored by RHC.



First-year students enjoy RHC's annual Movie Night during Welcome Weekend.

Photos Courtesy RHC Instagram

That's So Honors... it's not too late to join the program

By Morgan Steiner
Contributing Writer

Of all the opportunities for excellence Wilkes University provides, few are as comprehensive as the Honors Program, which provides students with not only challenging coursework, but a unique community within Wilkes University. Why should you apply for the Wilkes University Honors Program?

Honors students are required to take 18 credits, or six classes, of Honors coursework. Often, these classes require students to complete an additional project, like a paper or review, or do something to benefit the entire class. For example, a past Honors section of WS-301, or the women and gender studies capstone required students to work on a project, either on or off campus, that advanced the cause of gender equality.

Honors students are also invited to tons of special opportunities. These include special faculty lectures and access to other on-campus guests. For example, Honors students are typically invited to special discussions with the Max Rosenn lecturers who come to campus.

Some Honors Program Student Committee (HPSC) events, like fundraisers, are open to the entire campus; however,

others are reserved specifically for honors students. Some of these include special Registration Nights, Broadway trips, and parties for the beginning and end of the year.

Honors students receive a \$500 stipend to be used for educational needs, in addition to a \$1,000 housing stipend for residential students. Honors Students can also apply for grant funding to put toward different projects, including academic conferences and study abroad trips.

In addition to all these benefits, Honors students also register for classes first, even before seniors. Honors students will also receive a special notation on their transcript, recognition at graduation, additional academic advising, and access to Honors spaces, including the Honors Lounge and Office, both located on the second floor of Stark Learning Center.

The Honors Program application is open to all Wilkes students who have at least a 3.5 GPA and at least six more semesters at Wilkes University. In addition to the application found online, students must write a leadership essay and share community service and extracurricular activities they participate in. Current first-year students can apply for the Honors Program through the Wilkes University website until April 15.

You can also follow the Honors Program on Instagram @wilkeshonors.



TOP: P3 Pharmacy student, Matthew Schwarztrauber graduated from the Honors Program in Spring 2023. He also won the Honors Program Academic Distinction Award.

BOTTOM: During Summer 2023, a group of Honors students traveled to Scotland and Ireland to learn about the culture. Many of the students in attendance utilized grant funding for the opportunity.



P1 Honors student, Ada Soriano, shares the opportunities she has utilized while on campus to a group of Barre Scholars.



Photo Courtesy Honors Program Instagram

Two roommates, one vision

All Belgium Waffles introduces new storefront

By Brooke Lare
Staff Writer

It all started with a shared vision between two roommates at Wilkes University.

The roommates teamed up to tackle a road of entrepreneurship. To one of the roommates, Billy Berry, a desk job is on the list of things-to-avoid.

A life of the standard grind and a path of complete knowing is not what interests Berry.

The student athlete graduated with his finance degree, and unlike most, he knows exactly what he plans to do with it.

Waffles. Waffles. Waffles, and more waffles.

Berry and his roommate, Toon De Schepper, started perfecting their waffle

recipe and eventually opened up a food truck.

The four wheeled truck brought so much success, they opened up another food truck, but this four wheeled truck is massive, which it must be, to appeal to the big city it's homed: Chicago.

John Barrett and Jimmy O'Kane, fellow student athletes of Wilkes University, saw this vision and backed De Schepper and Berry to the best of their abilities, utilizing their networks in Chicago to speed up the process for De Schepper and Berry. What's next?

The next move was obvious to the business owners: a storefront. The waffles are cozy so it makes sense for the store to be nestled in the middle of Livingstone Lane, directly across from the movie theater on Northampton Street.

The duo proves to be inspired, drawing

in support from locals and King's College with open arms, encouraging them to join campus events frequently. The business owners were able to be on popular food delivery apps such as Doordash and UberEats, with no added delivery fees.

With the success of their business, Berry, and alumni customers wish Wilkes would be as supportive as Kings College has been and the surrounding neighborhood, since Wilkes is a key part of their success story.

Although the business owners feel the support could be better, they are proud of their Wilkes alumni status, considering De Schepper and Berry wouldn't have met otherwise.

Currently, De Schepper is back home in Belgium. When asked if that makes things harder, Berry, the optimist, says

there's not a problem at all. Although he misses his business partner, they are able to manage their business countries apart all the same.

Ericka, Berry's girlfriend, shows her loyal support, and adoration of their recipe.

Berry likes his waffle topped with chocolate syrup, whipped cream and powdered sugar. His girlfriend prefers her waffle to be completely plain.

"It's just so good on its own," she elaborates.

Berry says she's just a picky eater, but she reiterates how good it tastes on its own, how it is not an ordinary waffle.

A plain waffle goes for \$5 a piece, with their sweet toppings only \$1 each. For Valentine's Day, they have heart shaped waffles.

Photos: The Beacon/Brooke Lare



All Belgium waffle topped with powdered sugar, strawberries and whipped cream made fresh and in front of customers. The thick batter is poured into the skillet and a thick fluffy waffle was taken out of the skillet and place in a box.



The new All Belgium storefront, located on Livingstone Lane in Wilkes-Barre, offers the same waffles and toppings as their food trucks. Owners painted the outside to match the colors and style as the familiar food trucks which were seen all over campus.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

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

Vision Board event allows students to look forward

By Emma Broda
Opinion Staff Writer

Honors students started the month of February off by making vision boards to manifest their 2024 goals. The event was held by the Honors Program Student Committee (HPSC), who provided materials for students, as well as refreshments of tea and cookies.

The beginning of the semester can be both exciting and sometimes overwhelming for students as they navigate through new classes, schedules and responsibilities. The vision board activity gave students an opportunity to spend time with their friends and relax while doing a fun and beneficial craft.

A vision board is a collage of different pictures or words that represent dreams, affirmations and motivations that a person has for themselves.

Students cut out images and glued them to their board, used markers to write goals, and decorated with colorful patterned tape to create collages of their own goals and “visions.”

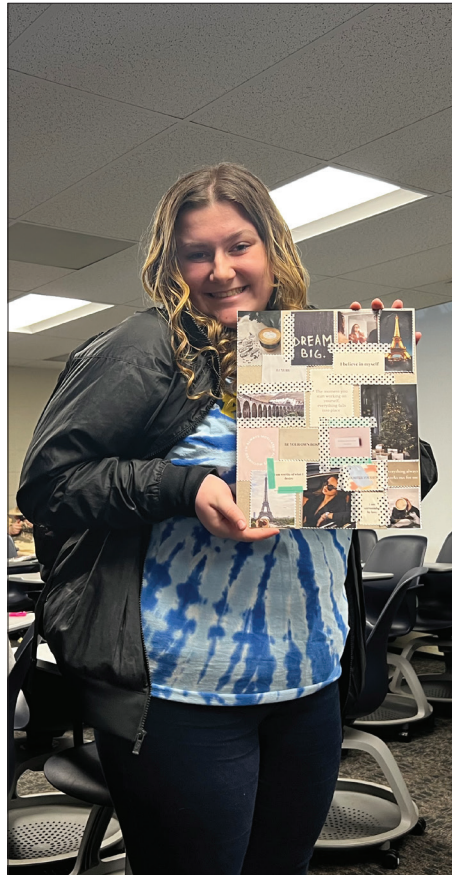
Reagan Weldon Peri, sophomore geology major, said her board focused on the outdoors because, “I plan to spend a lot of time outdoors this year through field trips, research, and an internship I have with an environmental firm.”

The outdoors as a motivator or “vision” was fairly popular with Kensy Edmond, a first year environmental engineering major. She added that her board focused on the outdoors as well as hydration and self care.

There was also a range of other dreams and goals for the year.

“My vision was a happy and fun 2024 full of traveling and spending time with friends,” said Zoë Morely, a sophomore biology major.

Writing goals and keeping them in mind as the semester progresses is



Star Sandt with her vision board.

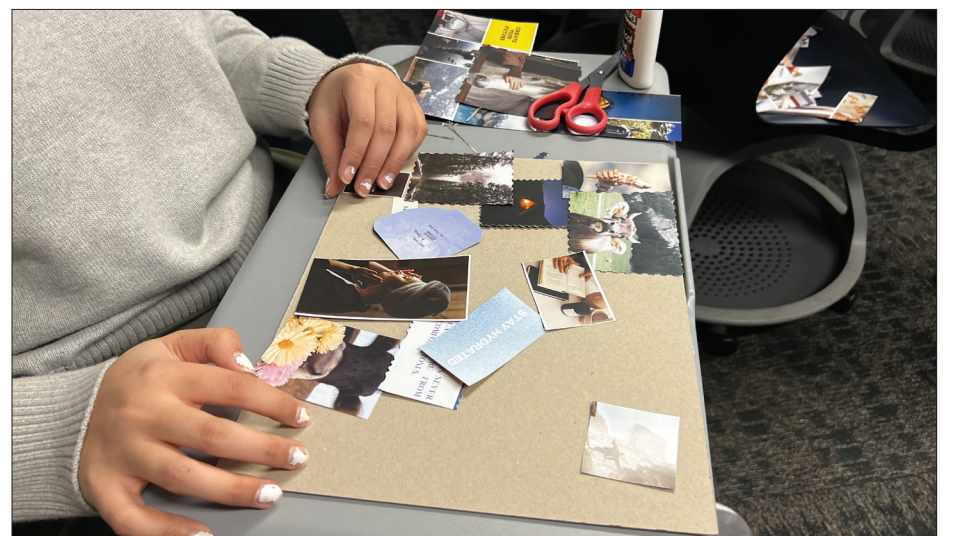
important so they can be motivating when things get too stressful or overwhelming. While this event allowed students to create beneficial motivators for the rest of the semester, it also provided a night of de-stressing and time with friends.

Weldon Peri said she enjoyed getting to see other people from the honors program who she had not seen for awhile.

Morley, one of the members of the Honors Program Student Committee said her favorite part of the night was watching participants pick out their photos and then create the personal boards.



Students were able to choose different pictures for their vision boards.



A vision board being assembled.

The Beacon/Emma Broda



By Anthony Cazun

Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

“They told me that the classics never go out of style, but they do, they do. Somehow baby, I never thought that we’d do too.”

These are the first words heard on the incredibly influential punk record that reshaped the perception of punk for an entire generation. An album that while adhering to traditional punk values, steered it out of the then sterile and diluted sounds and messaging that were plaguing the genre and the scene as a whole.

During the 1990s, punk underwent a transformation that would shoot the genre into the mainstream charts. That transformation would come in the form of what is titled “Pop punk.”

Commercialized bands such as The Offspring, Green Day, blink-182, Jimmy Eat World, Sum 41, etc. have all utilized the punk sound and aesthetic for their music, but lacked most if not all of the central punk messaging and values.

The hardcore scene, one similar to punk but with a more aggressive spin, suffered from the same issue. People wanted the energy, but were losing sight of the core. That is when Swedish punk and hardcore band Refused became disillusioned with the scenes as a whole.

Front man Dennis Lyxzén was revolted with the rising conservatism within the scene, and instead believed in dismantling the establishment, tearing down capitalistic systems and forming revolution through music. That is when they began work on their now iconic

Album of the Week: The Shape of Punk to Come - Refused

record “The Shape of Punk to Come.”

The record sought to reform the current landscape of punk and hardcore, with more hard hitting anti-establishment messaging, attention demanding riffs and percussion, non conventional punk instrumentation as well as fusing with other genres to create a more diverse sonic palette. Jazz, techno, ambience and even folk were all inspirations for their record.

Songs like “Liberation Frequency” repeatedly shout “We want the airwaves back,” as a way of vocalizing their discontent of the safe and unchallenging state of radio and punk at the time.

“New Noise” may be the most popular and poignant song on the record. Beginning with the line “Can I scream?” as a way to voice frustration and

reintroduce the concept of anger, not angst, into the scene. “How we can expect anyone to listen of we’re using the same old voice? We need new noise.” No lyric better encapsulates the core of the record. Before the record even released in 1998, the band would split due to growing tensions.

The album would initially sell next to nothing, but in the following years would gain a growing fanbase through word of mouth. The once overlooked album would be cited as the inspiration of many of the largest bands of the coming decade. Bands such as Linkin Park, Rage Against the Machine and Paramore, amongst many others. In 2015, Refused finally reunited.



Graphics/Lara Mullen

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff picks their favorite song of the week. Our very own Anthony Cazun has put together a Spotify playlist where you can scan it and listen to the Beacon’s staff weekly picks!

Morgan Rich, Editor-in-Chief:

Karma - Taylor Swift

Amanda Montgomery, News Editor:

Then Because She Goes - The 1975

Emma Broda, News Staff Writer:

Ingydar - Adrienne Lenker

Anthony Cazun, LA&E Editor:

Linger - The Cranberries

Cally Williams, LA&E Staff Writer:

Clay Pigeons - Michael Cera

Brooke Lare, LA&E Staff Writer

Turks & Caicos - Rod Wave

Sydney Allabaugh, Opinion Editor:

Pacer - Doechi

Samara Carey, Asst. W Opinion Editor

I'm Not Pretty - Megan Moroney

“Freeze,” Opinion Staff Writer:

BFG Division - Mick Gordon

Adam Grundt, Sports Asst. Editor:

Gasoline - The Weeknd

Sam Mullen, Sports. Asst. Editor:

Loose Control - Teddy Swims

Lara Mullen, Designer:

Homesick (with Sam Fender) - Noah

Kahan, Sam Fender

Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager:

Lavender Girl - Caamp

Buzz around the new cast of the Sweeney Todd Musical

By Cally Williams

Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff Writer

Sweeney Todd is a hit Broadway musical by Stephen Sondheim, and the announcement of a new cast for the Broadway production has theatregoers excited for what is next.

The musical is based on the “Victorian Penny Dreadfuls,” a series of horror stories. The musical has been made into a movie by Tim Burton with Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter.

The musical is available for licensing and has been performed all over, from schools to community theater to Broadway. It originated on Broadway in 1979 and the revival opened on March 26, 2023. The musical follows a barber named Sweeney Todd and his plan to get revenge on the Judge that tore his family apart after exiling him for a crime he did not commit.

Sweeney Todd meets a baker, named Mrs. Lovett, and together they come up with a plan. He starts killing his customers using a shaving razor and

gives the human meat to Lovett. Lovett bakes the bodies into her pies as her role in their sinister partnership.

Sweeney meets a sailor named Anthony on their way back to London. Anthony falls in love with Johanna, a young woman locked up by Judge Turpin. Johanna turns out to be Sweeney’s long lost daughter.

The story does not have the happiest of endings, but is fitting for such a grim and gruesome tale.

The revival cast consisted of Josh Groban as the titular character, Annaleigh Ashford as Mrs. Lovett, Jordan Fisher as Anthony, Maria Bilbao as Johanna and Gaten Materazzo as Tobias.

Ashford and Groban gave their final performances on Jan 14. Materazzo left his role on Nov 5, 2023, and Fisher gave his final bow in June of 2023

Groban is a singer, songwriter and actor. He made his Broadway debut in 2016 when he played Pierre in “Natasha Pierre and the Great Comet of 1812.” Groban is most well known

for his singing and made a very famous cover of “You Raise Me Up.”

He won the “Billboard Music Award” in 2003 and has been nominated for numerous awards, including a Tony for his performance in Sweeney Todd as the titular character.

Ashford originated the role of Margot in the musical adaptation of “Legally Blonde” on Broadway. She won the Tony Award for “Best Featured Actress” for her role of Essie in “You Can’t Take it With You.” She was also nominated for a Grammy for the cast recording of “Sweeney Todd.”

With the departure of the original cast, this makes room for new actors to perform the classic horror musical.

Broadway’s sweetheart, Sutton Foster, will be taking over the role of Lovett on Feb. 9 alongside Aaron Tveit as Sweeney himself. Foster is known for her roles as Millie in “Thoroughly Modern Millie” and Fiona in the musical version of the movie “Shrek.” Tveit originated the role of Christian in the jukebox musical “Moulin Rouge”

and played Danny Zuko in FOX’s “Grease Live!”

“Heartstopper” actor Joe Locke made his debut as Tobias Ragg on Jan. 31. Not only was it his first performance as Tobias but his first Broadway performance ever. Locke is most well known for his role as Charlie Spring in the Netflix adaptation of the graphic novel “Heartstopper.”

Maria Bilbao will continue her role as Sweeney’s daughter, Johanna. Bilbao’s performance as Johanna marked her Broadway debut.

Sweeney Todd made over \$1 million in the box office for the 2023 revival. Groban and Ashford’s performances sold out, as fans of the musical were excited to see the stars’ performances. Sondheim’s genius is shown in his musicals like “Into the Woods” and “Company.” “Sweeney Todd” definitely lives up to the standards of Sondheim’s legacy.

Possible artificial intelligence regulation on the horizon

By Anthony Cazun

Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

In the modern era, society as a whole has to credit many of its conveniences to technology.

From smartphones to smart fridges, this has continued to persist. This growing reliance has grown onto the most human thing of all, art itself. Artificial intelligence, or more specifically, A.I. art, has been a contentious topic for many years now.

Some deem it as convenient and new way for the functionally unskilled to realize their thoughts, while many others deem it as unethical, believing it is not only taking the soul and talent out of art, but also steals art and styles from real artists in order to create artificial artwork.

For many years that was the primary discussion revolving around A.I. artwork, however there is a more sinister, humiliating and possibly illegal

issue with A.I. artwork that is making headlines, a discussion that may finally lead to A.I. art regulations.

Within the last week, A.I. generated explicit imagery of Taylor Swift went viral on the Twitter, or X, platform. These images were met with millions of viewers across the platform, the most viral of which earned over 45 million views alone. The account that posted it would be met with immense criticism, leading to them privatizing their account.

This led to a larger discussion that had been bubbling for many years. The ethics and immorality of generating explicit imagery of nonconsenting people. Taylor Swift was noticeably enraged by the images, leading to her team threatening to possibly take legal action against various A.I. image creation platforms.

“These fake A.I. generated images are abusive, offensive, exploitative, and done without Taylor’s consent and/or knowledge.” said a source close to Swift.

“Taylor’s circle of family and friends are furious, as are her fans obviously. They have the right to be, and every woman should be. The door needs to be shut on this. Legislation needs to be passed to prevent this and laws must be enacted.”

This controversy was large enough to spark genuine conversation around legal regulation. Congress Rep. Joseph Morelle introduced a bill titled “Preventing Deepfakes of Intimate Images Act.” This would inhibit. The law titled “DEFIANCE” or “Disrupt Explicit Forged Images and Non-Consensual Edits” would allow victims of digital forgery to successfully sue those responsible.

Hundreds of women, mostly but not limited to actresses and singers, have been affected by explicit digital forgery, ranging from images to videos. One of the most tragically affected has been 17 year old actress Xochitl Gomez. Most known for her role as America Chavez in the Marvel Universe, she has

been victim of rampant digital forgery. Recently, she spoke out against it during an interview.

“It made me weirded out and I didn’t like it and I wanted it taken down. That was my main thought process was, ‘Down. Take this down. Please,’” said Gomez, “In my mind, I knew that it wasn’t me, so it didn’t mess with me or anything like that. It was just something that felt really uncomfortable because I couldn’t take it down.”

Gomez expressed discomfort with the A.I. generated videos, saying that her team had attempted to take them down various times to no effect, despite her being a minor.

While the laws are currently undecided and nothing is set in stone, the morality of the technology, especially for creation of explicit imagery without consent, is not morally up for debate. Lawmakers have finally recognized this and steps are being taken to prevent digital forgery.

...Puppies & Plushies cont'd from p. 1

let their creativity show by having fun decorating their plushies, and they were able to show some love and affection to the dogs. With the beginning of the new semester in full gear, this fun relaxing night worked a stress reliever for students with some exams coming up

“This event is a big stress reliever because I have an exam coming up,” said Emma Raville, a first-year nursing major.

For most students this event helped to fill the void of missing their pets back at home and to give them a sense of happiness while being away from their own pets.

“I came to the event because I miss my pets at home and I really love dogs,” said Raville.

Not only did students have a fun time decorating their plushies and creating new memories with their friends, they also supported an amazing organization and helped them so they can educate our community and help as many animals as possible.

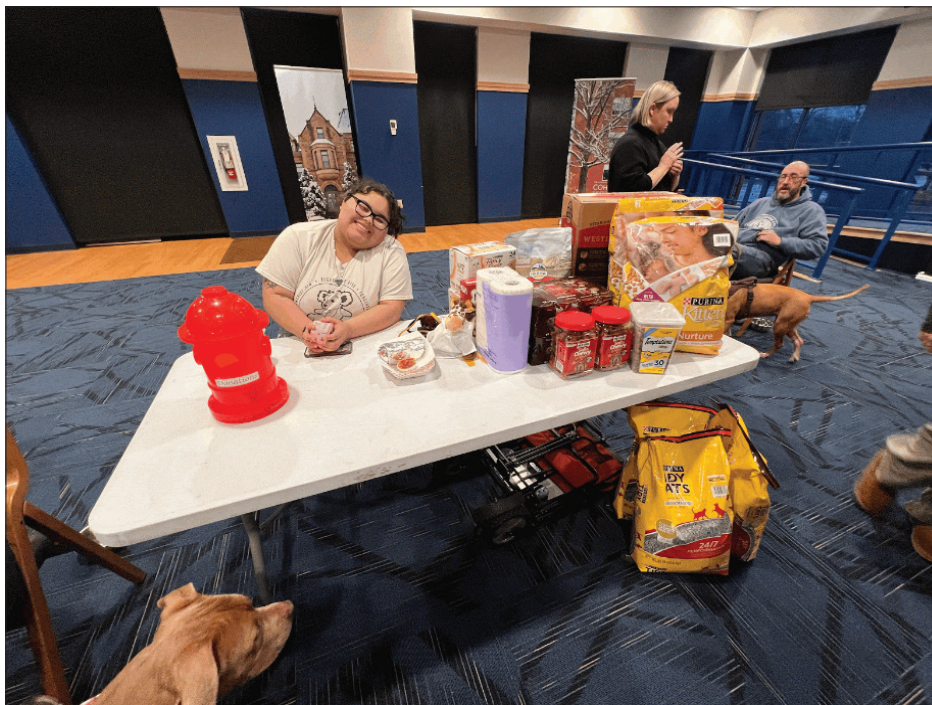
The programming board hosts events every Thursday for students. On Feb. 8, Pickles-Barre will be hosted followed by Music Bingo on Feb. 15.



Izabel Lynn and Jenna Winkler pose with their plushies.



Programming Board members interacting with “Jade.”



Programming Board member Maggie McHenry is all smiles at the donation table.



From left, Programming Board members Sadena Perez, Kylie Kilvitis and Owen Ward work the plushies table at the Puppies & Plushies event.

“Hockey is my middle name”

Student remembered by campus and area community

Editors note: The Beacon would like to express its sincerest sympathy to Julia Mazur's family.

Julia's mother visited Wilkes in December and shared a poem Julia had written after her diagnosis. That poem, and photos celebrating Julia's life, can be found on pages 12 and 13 of this Beacon.

By Adam Grundt

Sports editor

Wilkes University student and hockey fanatic, Julia Hockey Mazur, passed away on Nov. 18 after a strong-fought battle with stage 4 metastatic melanoma.

Nearly three months after her death, her personality, spirit and drive are kept alive through the people -- family, classmates, professors, athletes, business professionals, and just about anyone else -- she met.

Mazur was a double-major student in marketing and sports management, while also pursuing a minor in communication studies. As a member of the Communication Studies Department and its co-curricular activities, Mazur was an active writer at The Beacon and worked as a sports reporter for the school's television program, Wilkes Now.

In addition to her contributions to these programs, Mazur was more than just a colleague, she was a friend to many and always had a smile on her face.

She also had a hockey story to tell. Mazur didn't just like hockey, she loved it. In fact, she legally made her middle name Hockey.

The diagnosis

On July 28, 2023, Mazur was diagnosed with stage four metastatic melanoma, which had already infected her lymph nodes, lungs, liver and parts of her bone joints. Support from not only the Wilkes community but from the entire hockey community in Northeastern Pennsylvania overwhelmed the 20-year-

old student.

“One big thing I learned is how important positivity is in a bad situation,” Mazur explained in an interview shortly after her diagnosis.

“I also learned that you can always have some bad moments but there is no reason to have a bad day. I also learned how important it is to live in the moment and appreciate every day and everything that you have.”

A love of hockey

As someone who legally changed her middle name to “Hockey,” most of Mazur's short life was centered around hockey and her favorite team, the Pittsburgh Penguins. She was employed by the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, the Pittsburgh American Hockey League (AHL) affiliate, for a several years.

“I have never met someone who loves the sport of hockey more than Julia,” Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins Vice President of Operations Brian Coe said. “She had a passion for the game that was unrivaled, and she loved being around the rink. Julia joined the Penguins as a member of our ice crew when she was still in her early teens, and she quickly

took on a leadership role with the group. She was an important member of our behind-the-scenes staff, and we were looking forward to seeing her take on a larger role with the team's front office staff this season.”

Mazur was in the middle of a summer internship when she received her diagnosis. She continued to contribute to our creative department remotely, even while she was undergoing treatment and hospital stays.

Mazur's story gained national attention during the month of November, which is known in the hockey community as “Hockey Fights Cancer” month. The AHL and the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins published a story about her battle with metastatic melanoma.

The story was also picked up by the Pittsburgh Penguins and can be found online.

Impact felt

Mazur's passing certainly has affected the Wilkes community. Mazur worked as team manager for the Wilkes men's ice hockey team before her death.

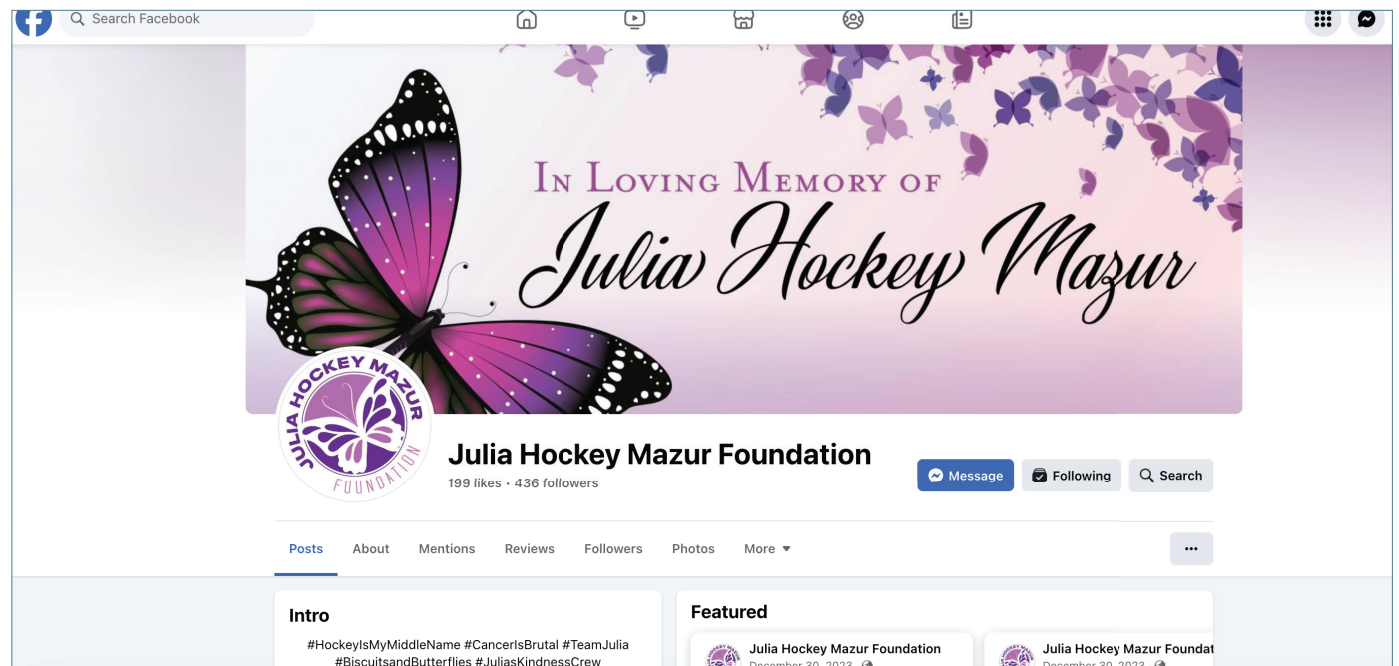
“Julia embodied everything our team

is about: blue collar workers with white collar talent,” men's ice hockey head coach Tyler Hynes said. “She was an ‘above and beyond-er’ who impacted our program not by how much she did, but by who she was. Julia was special to us and her spirit will live on forever here.”

Mazur's family and friends have since established the Julia Hockey Mazur Foundation, a nonprofit organization that has been started in Mazur's honor. This nonprofit organization “pays it forward” around the community and continues to educate the public about living life, while supporting those with cancer.

Currently, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins are having a T-shirt fundraiser with their logo and the quote “My middle name is Hockey.” The shirt can be purchased at https://axelradshop.com/wbs_penguins/shop/

To learn more about the Julia Hockey Mazur Foundation, follow them on Facebook at “Julia Hockey Mazur Foundation”.



JULIA HOCKEY MAZUR



Text from a Poem by Julia Mazur

You look at me at first glance
and what do you see?

A young girl with dirty blonde hair and green eyes
What if I told you I was raised by a mother who loves me uncondition-
ally
What if I told you my family loves to travel and goes on trips often
What if I told you I am on track to graduate college early with two
majors
What if I told you I have a job lined up for myself after I graduate
What if I told you I have a good group of friends that support
and help me through everything
Would you want to trade places?

What if I told you my life changed
with one phone call?

What if I told you about how frustrated and angry I get when people
talk about petty issues and boys and parties and normal college stuff
What if I told you I have to skip class because of appointments
or surgery not because I am lazy or overslept
Then What if I showed you the scar on my collarbone.
Would you know what that scar meant?

Would you understand from personal experience
or because of a friend or family member.
Or are you working in the medical field
helping people like me get through and fight
What if you still don't understand what that scar represents?
Would you look at me differently if you knew what it means?

What if I told you about the different doctors
and specialists I have to see
What if I told you about how terrifying it is
to walk into a doctors office and be told you need immediate surgery

The Beacon - February 7, 2024



Center



12



Opinion

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

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The "Barbie" Oscar snubs are painfully ironic

On Jan. 23, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences released their nominations for the 2024 Oscar awards, and people are angry, rightfully so.

The blockbuster hit "Barbie" was nominated for eight categories including Best Picture as well as Best Supporting Actor for Ryan Gosling for his role as Ken. However, who the Academy failed to recognize in their nomination list were the women who truly made this film possible: lead actress and executive producer Margot Robbie and the film's director Greta Gerwig.

In poor ironic fashion, the Academy nominated the leading man in the film about recognizing women and not even the star herself. The film would not have been nearly as emotionally or culturally impactful if it were not for Robbie's fantastic performance as Barbie, but alas, Robbie is snubbed yet again.

On behalf of Gerwig, this snub is not only shocking but downright unbelievable. Both critics and general audiences alike have praised the film for its directing. It's not like the Academy doesn't feel the same way given its Best Picture nomination, yet it's still not

nominated for directing?

Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer," which was largely compared to "Barbie" due to the Barbenheimer memes of the past summer, also received a Best Picture nomination and a directing nomination which makes sense, right? But why does Greta Gerwig not receive one?

The Academy has been notorious for being extremely tone deaf when it comes to choosing which film gets nominated for which category, but this time it just comes off as extremely distasteful.

Gosling was even outraged by the Academy's poor voting and addressed his disappointment in Time magazine in which he stated, "...There is no Ken without Barbie, and there is no Barbie movie without Greta Gerwig and Margot Robbie, the two people responsible for this history-making, globally-celebrated film."

Many other celebrities have spoken out against the Robbie/Gerwig snub including actress and singer, Bette Midler in which she tweeted, "This movie not only resonated deeply but also grossed a billion dollars. Yet, in a twist of irony, it was Ken who received

the Oscar nomination. Everyone go re-watch 'Barbie' tonight."

The reason why we are all outraged by the Academy is because they are embodying exactly what the film is talking about, that men will always be acknowledged more than women despite working just as hard as them. Women are not recognized as women in our patriarchal world for their brilliance, and it is sad to see that the Academy not only proved the film's thesis, but continue to carry on their tone deaf legacy of poor nomination selection.

A silver lining to all of this is that America Ferrera was nominated for Best Supporting Actress which is great since she gave one of the best monologues in cinema history. However, it doesn't change the fact that the world is one big "Mojo Dojo Casa House," and we continue living in it.

All we can hope is that the Academy finally learns to acknowledge the women that have reshaped cinema. Gerwig and Robbie are two of the many women taking cinema by storm, and it is sad to see that they continue to be put down by the patriarchal Academy.

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.

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The Icebox: An in-depth review of “Doom Eternal”

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

In a world where demons prevail and the spawn of hell has control of Earth, there is only one force that stands in the way of the alien race of Maykr. This is the game where the demons may have caused endless suffering, but for them, the doom is eternal.

Most video games involve defeating a dangerous threat and often being greatly outnumbered. This game follows such a theme with a twist, which is that you, the player, are the one to be feared. While others may run from demons, in this game they are the ones running from you!

“Doom Eternal” is the latest installment of the Doom series, originally released in March 2020, right before the dreaded quarantine. This means that players, though locked at home, were able to traverse the apocalyptic planet Earth as the brave protagonist known as the Slayer or Doomguy. The Slayer is said to be so terrifying that people have attempted to animate an alien’s perspective of the game, and it was scarier than playing the game.

The game, like its prequels, is an action-packed first-person shooter where the protagonist is a brave marine-turned-space warrior who has only one mission: to stop the invasion on Earth and rid his home planet of the monsters for good. Why would a man risk his life to jump straight into hell and complete such a daunting, seemingly impossible task? Well, it’s because the aliens beheaded his pet rabbit, Daisy.

The term “first-person shooter” might make someone think of “CSGO” or “Call of Duty.” One thing that you should make note of is that these games wouldn’t exist if it were not for the original “Doom” in 1993. The title of today is a large extension of the original game. The player has the option to switch between loadouts with the flick of the controls, ranging from big rifles, shotguns and explosives. There are unique attachments for each gun that give it a special ability. “Doom Eternal” takes the shoot-em-up to the next level with abilities and charges that make you feel like a champion.

One of the best things about the game is just how violent it gets. Players can train themselves to optimally punish the big,

bad monsters with the unique defense mechanics. For example, the Arachnotron is a brain-like alien with two metal limbs. The Doomguy can take them down by ripping off one of the limbs and impaling the Arachnotron’s skull straight through the eyes. For some people, such an experience may not be so settling. For others, it’s the rush of adrenaline and the ability to feel unstoppable that makes it so amusing. To top it off, the Doomguy unlocks more weapons with each defeated boss, some of which are melee. You can start the game by literally punching your way through monsters, then acquiring a chainsaw which can be used to slice demons into shreds. The bigger the arsenal gets, the more creative a player can be.

Finally, the best part of this hell-cleaning experience is the soundtrack. Without a good soundtrack, it’s hard to drive forth the idea that the player is the final boss himself. Thus, the talented composer Mick Gordon composed almost seven hours of heavy metal and rock music that perfectly captures the setting and theme of “Doom.” Legend has it that the real reason Earth is on fire is because Gordon lives there. Many fans agree that the unnamed protagonist must be Gordon himself.

I would recommend watching his documentary regarding the research he put into his music. You may have heard of some of the most iconic songs from this game, such as “The Only Thing They Fear Is You” and “Rip and Tear.” There is even a theme, “Meathook,” that is for a weapon unlocked later in the game. If you check out the Beacon Bops for this issue, you will see my personal favorite.

Unfortunately, Gordon was not treated well by Bethesda studios, the company that hosts the “Doom” franchise. In November 2022, he opened up about how the company executives did not pay him for his work and mandated an aggressive workload and deadline. Many fans were unsure how to feel about his statement until more truths came to light. Since then, there have not been any significant updates about this situation. Thus, a true “Doom” fan will say: “Justice for Mick Gordon, aka the Doom Slayer!”

The Return of The Red Raven: an original story

By Leah Smith

Contributing Writer

PART 9

Rick sat down on the covered toilet seat after he finished cleaning Cameron’s blood off of him. His mind was leaping from one thought to another. A serial killer is on the loose. That same serial killer is going after cast members of an irrelevant superhero TV show. That same serial killer knows where he lives and tortured his husband. Now, all of those events lead up to him sitting in a hospital bathroom alone. Alone? The mere idea of being alone ached Rick. However, he knew deep down that he wasn’t alone.

He picked up his phone and started to dial Isabelle’s phone number. Before he could finish dialing her, he had to calculate what he had to say to her. How much should he give away? What will happen if he gives her all of the details? He couldn’t stand thinking about all of the possibilities anymore and finished dialing her number.

The dial tone buzzed for so long that he thought she wasn’t going to pick up. Soon, Isabelle picked up her phone.

“Hello?” she asked into the phone.

“Hey Izzy, it’s me. I know I’m the last person you want to hear from right now but this is serious,” Rick stated.

“Fine, but it actually better be serious.”

“Your dad is in the hospital,” Rick said. He felt sick hearing himself say those words out loud so easily.

Isabelle stood silent for a moment. “I’ll be at the hospital ASAP. We’ll talk more when I get there,” she stated.

Isabelle ended the call, leaving Rick alone yet again. He decided to leave the bathroom and walk out to the front of the emergency room entrance. He stared off into the distance and continued to think.

He thought about what he would say to Isabelle, writing a mental script for himself. He thought about what to do about the serial killer and what they told him to do. Is the killer trustworthy? If he talks, is he next on the list? Will what happened to Cameron happen to Isabelle next?

As Rick continued to think about every “what-if” scenario he could think of, Isabelle began to grab her things in her office at the

police station and started to walk out.

“What’s the matter, detective?” Mabel, the mousy forensics intern asked.

“It’s a family emergency, Ms. Smalls. I have to go,” Isabelle answered sternly.

“Well, I hope everything’s okay. I just wanted to let you know that I finished scanning the severed thumb prints for the Rossi family case for you,” Mabel added.

“Thanks, just leave it on my desk.”

Before Isabelle left the building, Mabel added one last comment.

“Being the daughter of the Red Raven sure gives you a lot of privilege. She can just walk out all she wants.”

Isabelle walked right back up to her and scowled. “What was that?” she demanded.

“What?” Mabel blushed and kept her eyes away from her.

“I don’t have any privilege being Rick Greenblatt’s daughter, okay? I had to work my ass off just as hard as you and everyone else in this precinct. Hell, I had to work even harder before I even dreamt about being an officer. You have no idea what kind of hell I had to endure being related to that man. He’s lucky I’m even seeing him right now,” Isabelle explained.

Mabel shivered, “I-I’m sorry.”

“You better be. Now, keep your damn mouth shut,” Isabelle warned.

Finally, Isabelle was out of the building. She stormed across the building and into the parking lot. She opened the door of her black truck, sat herself up on the seat and slammed the door closed. She took a deep breath and relaxed. She looked up from the floor and soaked in the peace of the emerald trees, ocean sky and wispy clouds. Like her therapist instructed her to do, she kept acknowledging her surroundings to keep herself calm. Finally, when she took one last deep exhale, she started to take off.

As soon as she parked her car at the emergency parking lot, she ran into the waiting room and saw Rick.

“What happened?” Isabelle asked.

Rick stated, “He was coming upstairs from the basement but he fell and started bleeding out a lot.”

Isabelle lowered her brows, “Are you telling me the truth?”

To be continued...

It's time to stop hating on the 10-year-old girls at Sephora

By Sydney Allabaugh
Opinion Editor

The tweens of America are now shopping at Sephora, and TikTokers are not happy about it.

Across the platform, teenage and adult creators have been complaining that 10- to 13-year-old girls have been infiltrating Sephora to test or buy expensive products intended for adults, such as Drunk Elephant retinols, and have been making a mess or damaging their skin in the process. Some are so resentful towards them that they mock them in reenactment skits, and others have even recorded young girls in Sephora without their permission to make fun of them online.

Although I can understand being concerned about kids wrecking displays at Sephora or damaging their skin with these products, the amount of hatred and widespread anger towards the innocent ones who have simply purchased these products is quite ridiculous. It should not come as a surprise that tweens with unlimited access to the internet with dwindling spaces intended for their age demographic are interested in trends and consumer goods intended for teens or adults, especially when these products are constantly advertised online.

Being a tween marks the transition out of childhood, and thus, it is the common experience to no longer want to be treated like a child. To be seen as cool and more mature, young people have always adopted trends from adults, especially from celebrities.

When I was a tween, I remember wearing pink clip-in hair extensions because celebrities were dying streaks in their hair. In the 80s, tweens may have wanted to wear bows like Madonna. This is the same phenomenon occurring with tweens now, except now teen and adult influencers on social media are setting the trends via sponsored content.

According to a survey conducted by Common Sense Media, tweens between the ages of eight and 12 are spending on average five and a half hours on screens each day for entertainment, and the number of tweens on social media is increasing. This exposure makes them more likely to view more social media ads, some being from beauty influencers who claim that Drunk Elephant products are essential for clear skin.

This type of advertisement exposure among children is relatively new as traditional media platforms like television are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission to limit the number and types of ads that play during children's media. Since social media

is managed by private companies, much less is done to regulate advertising children view online, which can expose them to these ads intended for adults.

This exposure could likely be decreased if parents played a more active role in monitoring their children's internet usage. However, avoiding deceitful marketing tactics is difficult to do online when they are so omnipresent. Even on websites intended for this age demographic, pervasive ads are likely to remain, and regardless, positive online platforms intended exclusively for the modern tweens are scarce the way it is.

Some may argue that children should not be exposed to social media—or even the internet—at all and should be interested in more age-appropriate stores and products, like how the tweens of 10 years ago still played with toys and shopped at Justice.

First, toys and stores for the tween age demographic are few and far between these days. Second, what many fail to realize is that expectations for what it means to be a tween are changing rapidly due to these technological advancements. Using social media is becoming increasingly necessary to maintain a social life or to avoid social stigma among peers, even though it is not necessarily an always healthy or safe place for children.

With spaces and platforms for tweens disappearing and social media becoming increasingly intertwined with youth culture, tweens are influenced to join teen and adult communities and participate in their trends to fit in, especially when peer pressure is combined with advertising. This can obviously be problematic and lead to situations like this one.

Although it may be annoying when children take over adult spaces or bothersome that they can be harming their skin, it is difficult to not to victimize them when so much of modern youth culture is now influenced by social media, which is dominated by adult influencers trying to make a profit. Sure, you can say there are a few young girls who act disorderly in stores (the parents are to blame for this one), but most young Sephora customers simply want to fit in and be seen as cool for owning a new popular product, as tweens always have, in a time in which being in this age demographic presents new expectations and challenges.

You can blame social media companies, influencers or parents, but stop being so harsh to the kids. Instead of mocking and bullying them, try being a positive influence and gently encourage safer choices and product selections, or better yet, just leave them alone.

Campus Suggestions: the toxicity of YikYak across campus

By Samara Carey
Asst. Opinion Editor

YikYak. An app that we all know and pretend to love. If you have been on this campus for longer than a day, chances are you have heard someone discuss this app at least once. If you have not, consider yourself lucky.

For those of you unaware, YikYak is an app famously created exclusively for college students, and it gives them the chance to talk to their peers anonymously about anything.

In recent weeks, YikYak has become an app where students go to discuss professors, make fun of the school's Snapchat stories and gossip about the events happening on campus. If you were on the app recently, chances are you saw backlash regarding one of the bigger clubs on campus about one of the events they held. But that is not all, I have also seen a plethora of discussion posts regarding proper classroom etiquette and the food options on campus.

If you ask me, the app itself does have some good intentions behind it. For example, it gives students the ability to openly talk about their opinions and ask questions without feeling embarrassed. We as students are able to give our perspectives on important matters across campus without any worry of consequence. However, in my experience, this app does not have a good record of accomplishment regarding positive interactions with others.

The toxicity of the app starts to become an issue when the users start to indirectly insult people in their posts. Since you are not able to directly name people or else the post gets taken down, the users of this app will give the people they are speaking about different personas. Without directly naming the different personas and nicknames of people, I am positive that you would be able to identify people on campus just by hearing the names that YikYak gives them.

To see how people truly felt about this app,

I decided to post on YikYak myself to see if other people felt the same way that I do. In my post, I asked users to upvote my post if they agreed that the app was negatively impacting this campus. To my surprise, almost 50 people upvoted the post, meaning that they felt the same way that I did.

Additionally, I asked users to comment underneath the post to explain their reasoning for staying on the app, despite the toxic implications behind it. From there, many users went on to explain that they are still on the app due to fear that they will be talked about on there without being able to defend themselves. Some other anonymous users explained that they enjoy seeing the drama they see on the app each day. Whether they were being sarcastic or not, this was a common response to my initial question. Despite some people saying that they are only here for the drama or out of fear, some people said that they do genuinely enjoy the app and

they are only on there to post their random or unnecessary thoughts.

This app was never supposed to be like this. I do not think the original creators of this app decided to create this so that college students can purposely make fun of their classmates anonymously. Instead, it was created to form a sense of community for college students that are new to campus and learning the area around them. However, when the app is then handed over to multiple young adults, the original purpose goes out the window.

I am not writing this article to try and change this app for the better, especially since I know that my opinion means nothing compared to the hundreds of people using the app. But I do want to make it known that this app can negatively impact people and their mental health. Whether these "jokes" are truthful or not, people can be cruel, and these statements can ruin their reputation or outlook on college as a whole.

Professional wrestling is fake, but for a good reason

Analyzing the drama and storytelling in WWE

By Shawn Carey
Contributing Writer

The world of professional wrestling is a strange one. At first glance, it appears to just be grown men and women beating each other up, which is only somewhat true. However, in reality, it is so much more.

Professional wrestling is a form of athletic theater, combining action with drama. Wrestlers, rings and announcers take the place of actors, stages and narrators. It may seem like wrestling is just all about

the fights, however, in reality they're just there to pave the way for the medium's most important aspect: the drama.

Ever since the early days of the medium, the story has always been the most important aspect. Sure, the fights are cool and all but, it's mainly used as a plot device, a means to an end. It's not the main reason most fans watch it. Wrestling usually tells sort of mythological stories. These larger-than-life people are locked in never ending combat, trying their best to prove themselves as the best.

With that being said, wrestling is fictional. Everything from the punches, the slams, kicks, throws and even the storylines. Meaning wrestlers are just glorified stuntmen. While this is often a point a lot of nonfans like to use to insult the sport, it is wrestling's greatest tool.

There are about a half-dozen major wrestling companies, so for the sake of the article I'll only stick to talking about the most popular one, World Wrestling

Entertainment or WWE. With that being said, keep in mind that what I go over in this article applies to all of them.

Wrestling as we know it today started in the early 1950s. Controversial businessman Vince McMahon hosted the very first WWE (known as the Capitol Wrestling Corporation at the time) show on Jan. 7, 1953. It was here that we saw the first and most important story telling device in the medium: the championship belt.

There are a number of championship belts

something different. They're these grand prizes, a wrestler's means to an end, the only true way to stop fighting. A wrestler with a belt sits on top of the food chain, no longer having to fight their way upwards. It's the only true way to prove oneself.

One of the best examples of this can be found in a currently ongoing storyline, Roman Reigns and his Bloodline.

Roman Reign was granted the WWE championship belt back on Aug. 30, 2020. This happened right after the wrestler returned from a year long battle with leukemia. After Roman claimed the belt, he made a promise to the entire WWE that we will do everything within his power to stay the champion.

Roman started the Bloodline as a way to protect his title. The team is led by Roman Reigns and features his real-life cousins, Jimmy Uso and Solo Sikoa. They group is managed by long time promoter Paul

Heyman. Sami Zayn and Jimmy's twin brother Jay Uso were also members at one point.

The Bloodline was his way to make sure that he would keep the belt and stay the champion. The group would find ways to make sure Roman won all of his matches, whether legal or not. During big matches if it looked like Roman was in a rough spot and about to lose, the Bloodline would come bursting out onto the ring and save him. Thanks to them, Roman has been able to stay as the WWE champion for over 1200 days, the longest in the company's history. Roman is now seen almost as a villain figure in the world of wrestling, doing what it takes to win.

Speaking of villains (also known as heels), they also serve as pretty big parts of storylines. If there's a hero, there must

also be a villain, but how does one frame a real person as this big unstoppable thread? How do you get millions to hate you? It's all about stage presence. The way you walk, your speech patterns, what you wear and even the moves you use, are all important.

Let's look at the most infamous villain in the business, the Undertaker. Everything about the Undertaker is meant to look as intense and threatening as possible. Before even stepping foot into the ring, you were able to tell what he was all about. He would enter wearing a big black leather trench coat and stetson hat, resembling the traditional appearance of his namesake. He would even sometimes carry a shovel with him.

The Undertaker doesn't become truly horrifying, however, until he is in the ring. He's mostly known for his devastating submission Hells Gate and his horrifying Tombstone Piledriver. As amazing as those moves are, I think the most important part of the Undertaker character is the specific way he gets up.

Most wrestlers do something similar to a kickup after being knocked on their back. The Undertaker however, does something much different. He hoists himself back up, almost as if he was a zombie being brought back to life. No matter what hit him, he would get back up. He was painted as this unstoppable force of nature and all-powerful force.

I know that I used some really grand words in this article, words that honestly sound a bit silly considering the context. However, they are well deserved. Yes, wrestling may be fake, but there's a good reason behind it.

Wrestling is not about watching the peak of human strength battle each other, it's about watching these individuals fight each other to prove a point. They fight to prove that they are the best. While the titles may not really mean anything, seeing the journey these people go through makes it all worth it.



in the industry, the Intercontinental, United States, Tag Team and Universal just to name a few.

These belts are used almost as a status symbol among wrestlers. Being the holder of a belt is one of the highest honors a wrestler can earn, symbolizing excellence, achievement and prestige. They're also one of the main causes of conflicts.

Most storylines follow the endless battle to claim a specific belt. Most of the major conflicts we've seen within wrestling stems from the belts. In reality, they're just these big and bulky straps of leather covered in fake gold. However, if you strip away your logical worldview you start to see them as

Suffering from success: 21 Savage's "american dream" review

By Logan Colonna
Opinion Staff Writer

On Jan. 12, 21 Savage released his third studio album, "american dream." Coming after his insanely successful collaboration album with Drake, "Her Loss," 21 was attempting to ride off his mainstream success with this album.

Less than a week prior to the album's release, he announced that he'd be creating a movie, sharing the same name. Days after this, he revealed to the public that he's releasing yet another project for fans to listen to.

Starting off with the first song of the album, "all of me," includes a great-sounding sample. The voice used from the sample is very soft and goes well with 21's softish vocals on this track. 21's performance wasn't too exciting for me as he uses his signature flow and doesn't deviate from it whatsoever.

"Redrum" was immediately a fan-favorite following the record's release. Yet again, I enjoy the sample being used and applaud 21's use of these kinds of productions. You rarely hear this kind of soundscape from him, which makes it nice to hear something new from him. A common theme here is him using the same flow over and over again throughout the entire album nearly. It's not bad by any means, but it allows for the album to get repetitive and boring vocal-wise very quickly.

My personal favorite track is "n.h.i.e." It features Doja Cat, which made many people write the song off. This upsets me because the song is actually so great sonically. Her performance is very chill and I'm here for it. It sets a certain tone that allows 21 to show his softer side. The instrumental is easily my favorite part of the song. I don't know how to explain it but it just makes me want to hear it over and over again.

"Sneaky" may be one of my least favorite 21 Savage songs in general. The instrumental is annoying as it's just always in your ear just ringing over and over again. 21's verse and chorus is laughably bad. He even makes it seem like he's full of himself because of the constant "mhm" adlib, which is also blood-boiling. This track

alone brings the album down so much.

"Pop ur shit" is another favorite of mine because of the featured artist. The chorus, however, is a big mess. For the first half of it, it has 21 just repeating "pop your shit" eight times in a row followed by the worst "bar" I've heard in a while. "It smell like gas, I think somebody pooped." WHAT? I don't know why artists feel the need to clutter their songs up with lines like this. The feature, Young Thug, saves this song so much. I'm a little bit of a fan of his, so it's nice seeing him not just being on this song, but pulling it out of the trenches with his clever vocal inflections. Besides the terrible chorus, this song is quite good.

"Letter to my brudda" is also pretty great in its own right. The production is as excellent as ever and 21's performance is even pretty good here. Sure, it's still similar to his previous verses, but he sounds more alive than usual on this track. Even the subject matter is pretty great as he's exploring things that he's been forced to experience when living the "street life," such as loyalty and betrayal. We even see him resenting his past ways and asking for his sins to be lifted off of him in the second verse.

"Dangerous" offers a solid Lil Durk feature, which amazes me simply because it's actually good. I'm known for hating Lil Durk so much, but I can say that he's great here. Both artists are serious with their delivery which heightens the track. The instrumental is enjoyable, being crafted by legendary producer, Metro Boomin, most known for collaborating with the faces of trap music like 21 Savage and Future. This track gives me a "SAVAGE MODE II" feel which I loved entirely, front to back.

Travis Scott brings on his "UTOPIA" vibes on "nee-nah." In my humble opinion, I believe that he carries this song. Everything about his performance is amazing. Even the instrumental has a dystopian kind-of feel, matching the whole aesthetic of the era he's currently in. 21's verse isn't bad, but it is severely overshadowed by Travis's verses.

Another track I cannot get behind is "see the real." It's just that nothing is really brought to the table. The instrumental is somewhat annoying. 21's verses are lackluster, although I must applaud them

for varying a bit flow-wise. Overall, nothing really stands out here, and I wouldn't mind if this track was scrapped completely and got something else put in place instead of it.

Another favorite of mine is "prove it" with Summer Walker. I've been getting into Walker piece by piece, and I love nearly everything I've heard from her. Just like "n.h.i.e.," the beat is floaty and cheerful, but I feel as if it matches 21's vocals more than the usual beats he chooses. Although

Walker only contributes to the chorus and some background vocals, I deeply enjoy everything she brought to the table.

"Should've wore a bonnet" is another great departure from 21's usual sound. This time around, it's a sort of an R&B track because of the feature included, Brent Faiyaz. Both artists are amazing here. I even think that this contains one of 21's best verses on the album. The instrumental is also a favorite of mine because of the inclusion of both R&B and trap. Everything about this song is excellent.

"Just like me" offers a whole new sound to the album. Since Burna Boy is on it, it takes on a reggae approach. I don't like Burna Boy all that much, but I can stand his chorus. The track as a whole makes an attempt to "trap-ify" the reggae-inspired beat and does it quite well. With the mixture of the two, 21's performance is made even better.

"Red sky" is another fan-favorite with its cinematic feel. From the intro and chorus, from Tommy Newport and Mikky Ekko, to the grimmy-feeling production, this whole song seems like it was taken out of an action movie. I must applaud 21 for his verses. He's leveled up his delivery a bit, and it made the song. One little thing I liked about this song was how whenever it would transition from a verse to a chorus, the instrumental would get a lot quieter, making it seem like time stopped just for



the chorus to come in.

The last track on this project is "dark days," which showcases an R&B artist, Mariah the Scientist. The track as a whole is very chill as the instrumental is lowkey in terms of instrument usage. The production gives a chance to 21 and Mariah to speak what's on their mind as 21's and Mariah's vocals match perfectly with the vibe of the track. Just like "letter to my brudda," 21 uses this track to speak upon street life. To sum it up, 21 believed that the time he was in the streets was the darkest period in his life. Mariah doesn't fail to add an emotional layer to the song with her amazing, wholehearted vocals. This is without a doubt, one of the most heartfelt outros I've heard in a long time.

I'll admit, getting over that hump of 21's performances being repetitive was quite hard on my first few listens. However, when I tried to get past that, I loved this album. From the fantastic production to the unique features, everything here was great. Even if 21's rapping wasn't sticking out like a sore thumb, it still had a great basis. Even the runtime of the album was great, only having 14 songs, which is a perfect middle ground in my eyes.

With all of this being taken into account, I'm giving this album a straight 8 on a 10-point scale.

Graphic by Laura Viviana De Lora Leon

Sports

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

NHL holds All-Star festivities in Toronto

By Adam Grundt
Asst. Sports Editor

The National Hockey League held its annual All-Star festivities at the Scotiabank Arena in Toronto on Feb. 2 & 3, and a star-studded lineup participating.

Each January, with the exception of years where the Winter Olympics are held, the world's best hockey players that are part of NHL teams gather in a different location to showcase their skills.

Held every season, the game and festivities mark the symbolic halfway point of the season.

This season, it was held in Canada's largest city: Toronto, Ontario.

This was Toronto's ninth time hosting the NHL's all-star game. As one of the Original Six franchises, the city held the league's first annual all-star game in 1947.

This season, each team was captained by a player and a celebrity and players were drafted in a draft-style format that was popularly used from 2011-2015. Teams were picked by their captains in a draft-style manner. Captains for each team are New Jersey's Jack Hughes, Vancouver's Quinn Hughes

and singer Michael Bublé, Colorado's Nathan Mackinnon and pop star Tate McRae, Toronto's Auston Matthews and pop superstar Justin Bieber, and Edmonton's Connor McDavid and actor and comedian Will Arnett.

The players shined in a skills competition held on Feb 2. The player with the most points throughout each of the events will take home \$1 million. The challenges held included: the Fastest Skater, Hardest Shot, Stick Handling, One-timers, Passing Challenge, and Accuracy Shooting.

The top eight point earners throughout that series of challenges will advance to the Honda one-on-one challenge, where the player will select a goalie they want to take on in a breakaway. After that, the top six point earners will move on to the final event: the Pepsi obstacle course.

The player with the most points throughout all eight of the events will be crowned the champion, and this season, the player who won the \$1 million prize was Connor McDavid, who made every contest (but especially the fastest skater competition) look easy.

In the National Hockey League, each team must send one all-star to the

game by rule. The rest of the players are chosen by the fans through a fan voting system.

The Vancouver Canucks lead the field with five all-stars: Brock Boeser, J.T. Miller, Elias Pettersson, Quinn Hughes, and Thatcher Demko. On Jan. 31, they completed a trade with Calgary in which they acquired another all-star in Elias Lindholm.

The Toronto Maple Leafs have four all-stars: Mitch Marner, Auston Matthews, William Nylander, and Morgan Rielly. Edmonton's notorious one-two punch, Connor McDavid and Leon Draisaitl will be taking the ice as members of the same team during all-star weekend, making them a favorite to win the tournament.

The league leader in points in the NHL, Tampa Bay's Nikita Kucherov, will be on the Hughes/Bublé squad. Two players who were selected to the all-star game but are currently injured and will not participate are Chicago's young star Connor Bedard, and Vegas's Jack Eichel.

Some other notable players participating in this year's festivities include Colorado's Cale Makar, Pittsburgh's longtime captain Sidney Crosby, Boston's David Pastrnak, and

Buffalo's Rasmus Dahlin. In addition, Winnipeg's goaltender Connor Hellebuyck, Montreal's Nick Suzuki, Minnesota's Kirill Kaprizov, Nashville's Filip Forsberg, Arizona's Clayton Keller, Detroit's Alex DeBrincat, and Igor Shesterkin of the New York Rangers will also be competing.

In the past, the best players from each conference in the league would take each other on in a single, regular style game. However, recently, the league shifted to a different format. Team Matthews/Bieber came out on top in the tournament this season.

Powered by two goals and an assist by the captain, Matthews, and a goal and an assist from three different players (DeBrincat, Barzal, and Keller), the squad was able to defeat Team McDavid by a score of 7-4. Each player from Team Matthews tallied a point in the final match.

It is unknown where the NHL's all-star game will be held next season. There are a few teams that have yet to host an all-star game, so it will be interesting to see where the league will travel to next season for its halfway point extravaganza.

Sports wants to know about your all-star players.

Do you have a player who is extraordinary on and off the field? Let us know!
They may be featured in a future Beacon.

Email adam.grundt@wilkes.edu

Successful season of women's basketball led by Matos

By Ava Tureen
Staff Writer

The Women's basketball team is showing some good scores with a 8-12 season under their belt.

As the team is reaching the final chapter of the season, team members are confident in how they have been playing and how they will play for the rest of their season.

Yamirelis Matos has stood out thus far. She has had an amazing season, and in games against Penn State Altoon and Goucher, she scored 21 points per game.

Matos is one of the team's four leading scorers, along with Erin Shober, Taylor Simpson, and Brenna Babcock.

"Like most of the team, I put up extra shots on my off time as well as work on my ball handling," said Matos. "However, going 100% in practice thus practicing in a game-like manner is what sets me up for the success I have been having."

Matos will continue to work on her shots and ball handling throughout the rest of the season and her off time. She has 25 3-pointers throughout her entire season so far and 66 free throws made.

"Staying consistent in games has been a pure result of the work put in practice everyday," she continued. "My mindset stays the same every game, and that is playing to develop as a player and continue the same work ethic. As well as wanting to win as a team, when we work together the game comes easier to us and is so much more enjoyable."

In the game against Scranton on Jan. 31, Emma Stout, a junior, shot two 3-pointers. One of those 3-pointers was immediately after entering the game from the bench. She is definitely a player to watch in the upcoming season.

Nadia Evanosky is a sophomore on the basketball team who is having a good comeback after facing an injury earlier in the season that kept her from playing seven games.

"Over the course of those weeks I was unable to participate in practice and could do minimal physical activity," Evanosky said. "However, upon getting cleared I rehabbed and worked out as

much as possible to get myself back into the shape I was prior to the injury."

Now that she is back and rehabilitated she is proving to be an asset to this team's success by scoring eight 3-pointers.

This season alone Matos has scored 263 points. Brenna Babcock has 161 points and Erin Shober has put up 138 points that has all led to their teams eight victories. Erin Shober has 21 blocked shots so far this season, and has blocked six shots within the last four games.

Taylor Simpson is also one of the lead scorers and has helped the team tremendously with 21 3-pointers this season. This is Taylor's first season playing for the Colonels.

Julia Marino has proven time and time again that she is a team player. She has the most assists on the team with 62 so far. Julia has also made 20 out of 33 free throws she has done throughout her season.

Erin Shober has 21 blocked shots and Madison Robel has 66 blocked shots so far this season. Erin has blocked 6 shots within the last four games.

Head coach Al Berger is proud of the team's ability to bounce back and their resilience.

"The Landmark Conference is a really tough league, and you have to be able to move forward from one game to the next, regardless of the result," said Berger. "I think we've done a good job of that throughout the season."

Coach Berger and his team go into every game with the same mindset and philosophy.

"We look at each game the same way," Berger explained. "We prepare to win every game, and have an attitude that each game is a great opportunity to show people what we're all about."


The women's basketball team is currently ranked #8 in the Landmark Conference above Juniata and Goucher.

Coach Al is excited for the future of Wilkes Women's basketball, especially with the four outstanding commits in the class of 2024.

The women's team has five games left in their regular season and are excited for playoffs to roll around.

THE BEACON

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Catch the women's basketball
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HOME at 7 p.m. on Feb. 7

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Spring means softball: A preview of this season

By Lexi McHugh
Staff Writer

As the spring season approaches, the Wilkes softball team is gearing up for its 2024 season in a new conference. The team is prepared for any challenges it may face. In the previous season, the Wilkes softball team held a record of 18 wins and 18 losses.

Head Coach Jacqueline Klahold is embarking on her impressive fifth season at Wilkes. Before taking over the softball program, she dedicated four years to the athletic department, serving as a staff assistant to the athletic director. In 2010, Klahold transitioned into coaching college softball, kickstarting a journey that would define her career.

Over the course of nine years, Klahold built her coaching portfolio, furthering her skills and fostering a deep understanding of the game. In late 2019, when the opportunity to lead the Wilkes softball team presented itself, she eagerly applied for and accepted the position. The decision was not just a career move; it was a heartfelt commitment to a place that holds special significance for both Klahold and her family.

It's worth noting that Klahold's

connection to Wilkes runs deep, as her husband has been a part of the university for the past 21 years. Serving as the Fitness Center Coordinator and Head Strength and Conditioning Coach. For Klahold, choosing to lead the softball program at Wilkes was more than a professional decision, it was a personal one.

In reflecting on her journey and the Wilkes community, Klahold emphasizes the importance of family. She believes in instilling a sense of unity within her teams, fostering an environment where players support each other through the highs and lows of both athletics and life.

"Wilkes is family to me, and that is what I have tried to incorporate into my teams, family," said Klahold. "Be there for each other and support each other through good and bad."

Klahold explains what she believes makes Wilkes softball a strong team.

"I think each coach, in their own right, has their own formula for what makes their team great," explained Klahold. "For our team, it starts with our core values and our players."

"Integrity, accountability, trust, respect, and commitment are our core values, defining our players as student-

athletes in the classroom, on the field, in the community, and in the weight room."

She emphasizes that her athletes should be the best teammates they can be on and off the field.

"We know our players are going to make mistakes in life, and our job as mentors is to help them learn from those mistakes and become stronger from their experiences," said Klahold.

Wilkes softball has a lot in store for this upcoming season according to Klahold.

"We have solid team goals of continuing to compete at a high level every game, and making it to the Landmark playoffs," said Klahold. "There is a lot of parity in this conference from top to bottom, headed up by national powerhouse Moravian University. It's a great challenge for us, but it is an opportunity that we are excited for."

Junior student-athlete Evan Sherrick, who plays second base for the Wilkes softball team, is also eager for the season.

"I'm looking forward to beginning our season by heading down to Myrtle Beach. It is always such a great team bonding experience that sets the tone for the rest of the season. These girls truly are my best friends, and I cannot wait to see what the season holds for us.

Sherrick, reflecting on the challenges of the new conference, shared insights on the team's resilience during preseason.

"Although this new conference is really going to test us, I believe my teammates and I are working extremely hard during preseason to be successful against the tough competition," said Sherrick. "This season, we have a group that is different from each of my previous years here at Wilkes."

"Everyone selflessly wants the best for one another, and we have an energy that I am so excited to be a part of."

The Wilkes Softball Team's schedule promises exciting matchups during their spring break at Myrtle Beach. On March 3, the team will face off against Norwich University, with subsequent games against Penn State Abington, Kenyon College, Bridgewater State University, Rosemont College, Lancaster Bible College, and Eastern Nazarene College.

Upon their return, the team looks forward to their first home game on Friday, March 22, against Lancaster Bible College.

*The Beacon is looking for sports writers for the
Spring 2024 semester*

**If you are interested in sports writing,
editing, photography or graphics contact
Adam Grundt at adam.grundt@wilkes.edu**

Athlete of the Week

Rissa Braseau

First Year, Forward, Women's Ice Hockey



The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week

Braseau recorded her first two-goal career game in the non-conference game against Albertus Mangus College. The second goal Braseau scored was the game-winning goal.

Major: Undecided

Hometown: Timmins Ontario, Canada

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

Team building at hot yoga

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

Providence Bruins (AHL)

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Jetski

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

The support for anything including academics and sports.

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

"Grand Turismo"

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

Flag fooball

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

The amount of friendships domestically and internationally hockey has allowed me to create throughout my career.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Cereal

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

I am honored because there are also so many other great and very successful athletes on my time and other teams who could have been chosen

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."

Compiled by Samantha Mullen, Asst. Sports Editor

Athlete of the Week

Jaryn Hartranft

Sophomore, Wrestling, 157

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week

Hartranft had a perfect 4-0 week on the mat. He is ranked second in the Southeast Region at 157 pounds and was able to help Wilkes to a 40-8 senior night win over Scranton. Hartranft also went 3-0 at the John Reese Duals, picking up three more pins.

Major: Undecided
Hometown: Catasauqua, PA

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

My favorite memory as a colonel so far was he King's match at the Martz Center my first year here. The crowd was electric and the wrestling team really put on a show!

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

Philadelphia Eagles!! Go Birds

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

My favorite thing to do away from wrestling is video games. It gets my mind off things and I really get to just relax and enjoy what's in front of me.

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

My favorite part of being an athlete here at Wilkes is the friendships I have gained. I have met some of the coolest people here that will be my friends for along time.

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

Vision Quest

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

Football since I played my whole life growing up until high school. Once I got high school, I focused on wrestling.

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

My senior year of high school when I hit 100 wins. It was surreal and a huge accomplishment that I've always wanted since I was a little boy.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Definitely has to be come wings.

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

I am honored to be athlete of the week for Wilkes. I've put in a lot of hard work and effort to accomplish this goal, but the end goal is to become a national qualifier at the least.



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."



Interested in joining The Beacon?

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