



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

The Beacon's statement on journalistic integrity

Truth, accuracy and objectivity have long been held as some of the key expectations that readers expect from good journalism.

Last semester, The Beacon editors discovered that a submitted opinion piece, written by a staff member, appeared to be plagiarized. Editors immediately contacted the paper's faculty adviser, Dr. Kalen Churcher, associate professor of communication studies, who also reviewed the piece. After a thorough review of the column, Churcher determined the piece contained improperly attributed and unattributed content, and the student was removed from The Beacon.

A review of all stories written by the student occurred, and it was determined that at least 19 opinion pieces were plagiarized between 2020 and 2021. The name of the student is not being released, following the advice of the university's student affairs officials.

The disappointment felt the editorial staff was – and still is -- great. To dishonor the university and the Communication Studies Department, as well as tarnish the hard work that students put into making The Beacon a respected publication, is not something

to be taken lightly. As a member of The Beacon's staff and as journalists, our job is to be truthful and honest not only with our readers, but other staff members and editors as well.

This kind of behavior is not acceptable at The Beacon, and protocol has been implemented to reduce the likelihood of it occurring again.

It was only after our discovery that knowledge was brought to us that the plagiarism was noticed by a small group of readers. Unfortunately, despite being noticed and discussed, the information was not reported to the paper or university administration. Be advised that we at The Beacon value honesty as journalists and we encourage any reader, be it a student, faculty, or a member of the community, to reach out to us with questions or concerns had with any content produced by The Beacon.

This semester, editors, paid staff writers and those seeking practicum credit must complete an online plagiarism unit and quiz. Eventually, anyone writing long term for The Beacon will also be asked to complete the review.

We apologize to these news outlets,

informational websites and their respective writers for the disregard of one of The Beacon's columnists.

We would also like to apologize to our readers. This case of plagiarism is not something we take lightly, nor is it something that should be brushed aside. Trust in news is something that is not easily gained but rather something that can be lost so quickly

We hope that our readers will continue to support our staff who do uphold journalistic integrity and work hard to produce the stories that comprise the pages of The Beacon, as we will continue to work toward earning back the trust that has been lost by this case.

For a list of columns, please go to www.thewilkesbeacon.com.

*Emily Cherkauskas, Editor-in-Chief
Ariel Reed, Managing Editor
Sean Schmoyer, Former Managing Editor*

Wilkes switches from MAC to LHAC starting in 2023-2024 athletic year

By Emily Cherkauskas & Ariel Reed
Editor-in-Chief & Managing Editor

The university recently announced its athletics department will move from the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) to the Landmark Conference. The school is set to move up in the 2023-2024 athletic year.

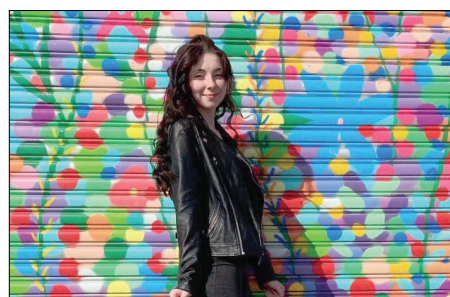
Wilkes is not the newest college to join the Landmark Conference. Lycoming College, located in Williamsport, is set to move up in the conference as well.

As a result of the change, Wilkes and Lycoming will be moved away from King's and Misericordia, local rivals. Instead, they are now members alongside the University of Scranton; the Catholic University of America, Washington D.C.; Drew University, Madison, N.J.; Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pa.; Goucher College, Baltimore, Md.; Juniata College, Huntingdon, Pa.; Moravian College, Bethlehem, Pa.; and Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pa.

LHAC, page 21



Wilkes continues rigorous efforts in monitoring COVID-19, page 6



Creative Colonel of the Week: Haley Katona, page 11



The far-right media, misinformation and vaccine distrust, page 18



Wilkes basketball travels to Delaware Valley, page 19

News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor Maddy Kinard: Madelynn.Kinard@wilkes.edu

Student Government notes: Feb. 9 weekly meeting

By Zach Paraway
News Staff Writer

The Student Government held its fourth meeting of the semester. It started in traditional fashion with a call to order and roll being taken. Next was the approval of minutes and the treasurer's report. The treasurer's report stated that there is a total of \$78,500 across all SG accounts.

The first order of business was the second week of presentation for the Random Acts of Kindness Week being run by the council. It was presented by SG President, Alexi Payne. The event

now has an official timeframe, running during the week of Feb. 14 to 18. SG has planned to give out Starbucks vouchers during the week. Vouchers are planned to be for a grande hot or cold drink, but this is subject to change. They will be good until the beginning of spring break, which begins on March 5. They can be found in envelopes



of kindness that will be distributed throughout the week by SG members and hidden in buildings all around campus. Each envelope, along with the voucher, will have a message in order to spread kindness. The budget for the event was proposed at \$1,050. The event

request from SG Parliamentarian Nate Pitcher. He was asking for presidents and secretaries from each class to stay after the meeting and go over the SG constitution, as they are planning to make updates to it.

The Veterans Council planned to give a presentation but could not attend.

SG will hold its next meeting on Feb. 16.

was approved.

The last order of business was a

Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

Save the Date for the Autophysiopsychic Millenium

On Feb. 23 from 4 to 5:30 p.m., members of the Chicago and Detroit-based collective Autophysiopsychic Millenium, led by Adam Zanolini, LuFuki and Angel Bat Dawid, will offer a workshop on the work of multi-instrumentalist and composer Yusef Lateef.

No prior musical experience is required for those to participate in the workshop.

Career and Internship Fair

Save the date: Wilkes University will be hosting its first in-person Career and Internship Fair in three years from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 17 in the McHale Athletic Center. Both students and alumni are encouraged to attend and meet organizations that are seeking employers and interns for both the summer and fall semesters.

Employer registration information will be available on the Handshake app

(or at www.joinhandshake.com) by mid-February.

For those looking to improve their resume, the Center for Career Development and Internships will hold a multitude of resume workshops and job fair prep sessions to prepare.

For more details, keep up to date with events in your Handshake account.

Buy a Tote Bag

Looking for a new bag? Green Giants tote bags are an affordable, sustainable and durable alternative to plastic and are being sold for ten dollars each. The bags come in two designs: the Wilkes logo and blue butterflies. Students looking to purchase one should watch out for them in the Student Union Building, the Simms Center, or DM them on Instagram @greengiantstotebags to place an order.

Ninety percent of proceeds go to Little Eric's Foundation, a local organization that funds pediatric cancer research.

Join in the Book Swap

In participation with Random Acts of Kindness Week, Reading Buddies

is engaging in a book swap. Anyone looking to get rid of old books, magazines, or any other reading material is encouraged to drop off their items in the Henry Student Center anytime between now and Thursday, Feb. 17, and pick up a new read in the process.

For more information, email monica.morrison1@wilkes.edu

Learn More About PHENND Fellows AmeriCorps VISTA

Are you a student graduating in 2022 and looking to go into a possible post-grad position in the social impact field? A Virtual Information Session will be held from 4 to 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 21 for those interested in becoming an AmeriCorps VISTA and supporting local nonprofits and schools in fighting against poverty.

The program offers two tracks: school-based community partnerships and non-profit organization within Philadelphia.

For more information, visit <https://phennd.org/grant/phennd-fellows/> and follow @phennd_vistas on Instagram.

Table of Contents

News.....2

Life, A&E.....7

Opinion.....14

Sports.....19

Upcoming Events: 2022 Spring Semester

March

5 - Spring Recess Begins
14 - Classes Resume

April

14 - Holiday Recess Begins
18 - Classes Resume

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: Madelynn.Kinard@wilkes.edu

International engagement seeking “Friendship Families”

Welcoming Panamanian classmates to the community

By Sydney Umstead

News Staff Writer

This past fall, Wilkes welcomed a new group of students from Panama. The office of international engagement is now seeking “Friendship Families” for the students.

The Panamanian students came to Wilkes through a program called the “IFARHU/Wilkes University Program for Student Centers.”

“IFARHU” stands for Panama’s Institute for Training and Development of Human Resources. Wilkes began taking part in this in 2016, with the first cohort being welcomed to the university in January 2017. IFARHU is a five-year program in which Panamanian students can earn a degree at Wilkes. The first five cohorts are set to graduate this spring.

The program is split into two parts set to aid students in their careers and college courses in the U.S., as well as Panama. The first part is dedicated to helping students learn and understand the English language, called the “comprehensive program.” The second provides students with the education necessary for an undergraduate degree that will help the Republic of Panama.

“Wilkes University has welcomed over a hundred students since the ‘IFARHU’ program started in 2017,” said Yeison Santamaria, program coordinator. “Currently, we have five cohorts of students on campus who are studying in the undergraduate program. Also, we are very excited about our very first cohort of students who will be graduating this spring.”

The Friendship Families began as an opportunity for the first group of cohorts to meet and connect with fellow classmates. The program has continued since then, with a short break being taken due to the pandemic but is now continuing this spring.

They provide the opportunity to connect emotionally and culturally with a diverse group of students. They will be able to share their individual experiences growing up in different countries as well

as their adventures in college. They are even able to help each other academically.

“Students can meet with their families for nearly anything,” said Madison Becker, assistant director. “Students can participate in family dinners, social gatherings; they can attend local sporting events or even church together.”

One participant in the “IFARHU” program is junior hospitality leadership major, Maria Velasquez. Velasquez enrolled at Wilkes in January 2019, and has been a member of the Friendship Families ever since. She notes that the experience has been a beneficial one, discussing how the program allows fellow members of the Wilkes community to celebrate special moments and even holidays, or birthdays together. This allows for all different types of cultures to connect with one another.

Velasquez touches on the fact that it can be difficult for any international student to transfer to a new school in a new country; however, she notes how over time she was able to embrace the new experiences and the challenges surrounding them.

“As a junior this year, I can assure you that nothing is impossible for anyone who has dreams to achieve even if they run into obstacles along the way,” said Velasquez.

The “Friendship Families” opportunity has left a positive impression on Panamanian students, with Velasquez citing Wilkes’s warm reception to their arrival in the program. Despite being away from their families, Panamanian students are able to experience a surrounding community that helps fulfill their emotional intelligence and social relationships.

“My experience at Wilkes University has been amazing since I have met many people from different countries who are especially friendly,” said Velasquez. “I have built relationships with them through class discussions and club activities. Also, I try to never get discouraged despite being away from my family, who have always supported me. I have realized that here at Wilkes constantly, no matter who you are and what your age is, you can achieve your dreams.”

If you are interested in lending a hand to Panamanian classmates with a Friendship Family,

Contact:

Yeison.Santamaria@wilkes.edu

Madison.Becker@wilkes.edu



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Dance marathon returns to Wilkes for a second-year

Beacon News Staff

Dance Marathon has made its way back to Wilkes and will take place on March 26 from 2 - 8 p.m.

In the second year of its existence, Dance Marathon committee members are looking to improve upon last year's agenda with more activities, including yoga, dancing, games, ceremonies, food, competitions, prizes, gifts, and more. This is the first time the event will be entirely in-person.

"This is going to be a great opportunity to bring our community together - both Wilkes U and Wilkes Barre," said senior communication studies major and executive director Donald Ballou. "We're gearing up to have a six-hour event on March 26, from 2-8pm. This will be full of fun activities and celebrations."

Ballou has taken a large part in the event and is excited about what can happen for it being in-person for the first time. The dance is similar to Penn State's Thon in that the goal for the event is to raise money for children who are going through the hospital



Graphic: Jack Malatesta

circuit. The proceeds will go to Janet Weis Children's Hospital, in partnership with Children's Miracle Network.

Participants are encouraged to stay as

long as possible in the spirit of showing commitment to the cause, and supporting Dance Marathon's motto: "Kids Can't Wait."

Students who get involved want to make a larger impact on the lives of the children who are unable to live the normal childhoods people like us get to have.

"It's for the kids, literally," said Kaleb Hanson-Richart, senior communication studies major and special events chair of dance marathon. "I am part of it because I want to make a difference in someone else's life. I want to be part of the movement to help these kids."

Students who feel moved to donate can register as a team or an individual. Ballou discussed that there will be a table in the SUB on Thursdays during club hours where the executive board will be able to inform people on what we are doing, as well as give away some small gifts for those who register for donor drive and/or donate.

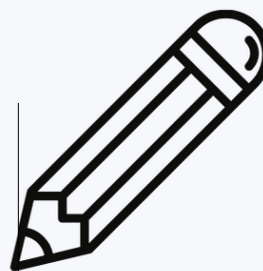
Students who want to get involved in Dance Marathon can contact executive director Donald Ballou at Donald.Ballou@wilkes.edu or simply show up at the table in the SUB.

REMINDER!

The Beacon is looking for News writers!

You can write about...

- Campus happenings
- National news
- Current events
- Politics
- And more!



Build your resume with a diverse set of skills!



CONTACT:

News Editor:

Madelynn.Kinard@wilkes.edu

Librarians offering one-on-one research appointments

By Sydney Umstead

News Staff Writer

Reference staff members working at the E.S. Farley Library are offering research appointments. These appointments help students find information on projects or papers.

This decision comes after staff noticed students having difficulty finding the research they need for assignments due to the switch to an all online format.

The appointments will be held both in-person and online, as the librarians want all students to have an equal opportunity to get the help they need.

“We’re trying to be as flexible as possible since many of our students are still taking classes online so we’re trying to promote these online Zoom and in-person reference appointments in the hopes that students reach out if they’re struggling to find resources,” said Suzanna Calev, public services librarian.

The reminders about the availability for appointments will be posted on the “Today, at Wilkes” email and the



The Beacon/Emily Cherkauskas

The Farley Library’s “ask a librarian” service is available under the “library services” tab on the building’s main page.

library’s social media.

The program was originally geared toward members of the university who are solely remote distance learners; however, the library has made the decision to incorporate the appointments for all students.

“We can cover virtually anything,” said Brian Sacolic, head of public services. “It’s not one size fits all but, we’re able to spend more time with the students.”

Finding the right articles and information can be difficult and the appointments can be a way for students and library staff to work through that together.

The appointments are one of many different ways that students can reach out for help. On the library home page, there is a “services” section where students can access a link titled, “ask a librarian.” They will be directed to

phone numbers, emails and even a specific email address geared to assist struggling students. There are also specific research guides available to all majors.

Due to budgetary cuts last year, library office hours have changed. Specifically, Sunday hours were affected the most. The hours are now 3 to 11 p.m. as opposed to 11 a.m. to midnight. The research appointments help combat this.

For students who are having trouble finding the research needed for projects, they can turn to the library.

When using library or university systems most often, other sites such as Google Scholar, are actually connected to Farley library. Library staff are more than willing to help students in need and will spend various amounts of time offering their services.

“Libraries are places that teach,” said John Stachacz, library dean. “We can help students decide what’s good for their research.”

Students form book club, looking for fellow bookworms

All genres and readers welcome

By Maddy Kinard

News Editor

Wilkes welcomes all book lovers with the addition of its newest book club.

Co-founders Victoria Yother, junior communication studies major, and Lauren Waltz, senior communication studies major, teamed up to form the club one random afternoon.

“Victoria and I were talking about different books that we liked,” said Waltz. “We talked about ‘Will Grayson, Will Grayson’ by John Green and David Levithan, and the idea just kinda blossomed from there.”

The club plans to meet on the weekends in local coffee shops in order to discuss the reading of the month. As there are many options for cafes in the area, the two founders are looking at switching it up each time they meet;

ranging from Purrfect Mugs Cat Cafe (which will be the club’s first meeting post), Pour, Abide, Barnes & Noble and more.

Books will also vary across a wide range of genres and topics, and fans of all genres should feel welcome to attend the meetings.

Yother and Waltz would like the group to each take turns making a suggestion which will then go to a vote. This way, at least each member is able to pick a book of the month for the club to read, creating a diverse amount of content.

“My favorite books are young adults and biographies,” said Yother. “Anything with a good story and interesting perspectives is right up my alley.”

Waltz favors the young adult romance novel along with science-fiction. As of now, her favorite book is “Turtles All the Way Down” by her childhood favorite

author, John Green.

To both founders, reading is critical to their lives. It has given them the opportunity to escape from reality for a short while and has allowed them to become more well rounded people.

“They allow you to have more empathy for others and the cultures and societies in which they live,” said Yother.

To those who do not like reading or are on the fence about joining the club, Waltz says to just try it out.

Like with most things, it is necessary to try something first before writing it off. Reading has the potential to be influential for years to come.

“A good book challenges your perspectives and ideals,” said Yother. “They make you think. You’ll remember a good book and the emotions that the author made you feel 40 years after you’ve finished it.”

Interested in learning more and want to join the book club?

Contact:
Victoria.Yother@wilkes.
Lauren.Waltz@wilkes.
edu

Want to have your new club featured in The Beacon?

Email:
Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu

Wilkes continues rigorous efforts in monitoring COVID-19

By Zach Paraway
News Staff Writer

With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting students for two years now, Wilkes has continuously updated its protocol and procedures while managing both virtual and in-person classes and events.

Dr. Mark Allen, dean of student affairs, has been overseeing assurance testing since the return to campus in the fall of 2020. He explained that like last semester, those unvaccinated must get tested weekly, and those vaccinated can get tested whenever they feel symptoms. This does not apply to in-season athletes who must get tested three times a week during their given season.

“The assurance testing program is one of several efforts to minimize the spread of infection,” said Allen. “Other steps include continued masking, monitoring and adjusting activities and events to conform to best practices, increased sanitizing efforts in campus buildings, and encouraging campus community members to get vaccinated and boosted.”

Allen also notes the decline of COVID-19 cases across the country and even at Wilkes, which the school has been actively monitoring on a regular basis on the COVID-19 dashboard.

Assurance testing occurs at the Marts Center, located on South Franklin Street,

directly across from the health and wellness center at Passan Hall. The Marts Center is testing for those who do not feel or currently show symptoms.

Those who do show symptoms should call the health and wellness center at (570) 408-4730 and follow the instructions of nurses. Wilkes also holds vaccine and booster drives for the community, though the dates for any future clinics have not been released.

Some students have found relief in the vaccination and testing clinics offered by the school. Keelyn Myers, a first year transfer and undeclared student, feels that Wilkes handled their COVID-19 situation well, compared to other schools.

“It is nice that the school cares a lot to continue to give tests, especially when they are hard to find,” said Myers. “And the fact that they give vaccines is great, too. You wish that all students would follow the rules and we could go back to normal soon, but in due time.”

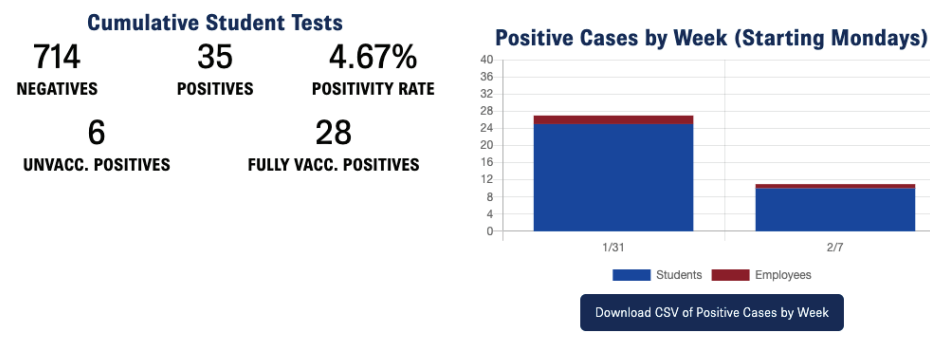
According to Colonels Combat Covid Dashboard, isolation and quarantine will be required with varying requirements. Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 will isolate for at least five days, per revised CDC guidance issued in December 2021. Quarantine requirements vary based on when/if you are vaccinated or have received a booster dose. Testing on the fifth day of isolation, quarantine or exposure is key.



Assurance testing is available at the Marts Center for those not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Testing is available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on Thursdays from 2 to 7 p.m.

Spring 2022 Dashboard

Last Updated: Saturday, February 12, 2022 - 6:00pm



Photos: The Beacon/Emily Cherkauskas

Wilkes gives daily updates on their COVID-19 dashboard, available to view through the office of risk management and compliance's page. The dashboard updates twice daily at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Not only does it show the amount of positive and negative tests students and faculty receive, but it also documents the amount of vaccinations administered to the campus population.



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Life, Arts & Entertainment

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

Programming board organizes new event: Shoe Bingo

A new type of bingo with a twist

By AJ Rubino

Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer

As COVID-19 restrictions lessen, more in-person events are able to take place. Last week, programming board hosted its first in-person bingo of the semester, Shoe Bingo, on Feb. 10 in the ballroom.

Campus was remote for the first two weeks of the spring semester due to the peak in cases of COVID-19. This decision also affected the events that were hosted by clubs and organizations, one being programming board.

However, as cases went down and the COVID-19 Task Force revisited plans, this event and many others are now able to take place.

Shoe Bingo is different from the other bingos hosted in the past. Megan Pitts, programming board adviser, created the idea and the board picked different brands of shoes for winners to choose from.

“We are all so used to picking prizes for

these events so we figured we would let the crowd pick what they wanted,” said Maddy Yeager, programming board president and P2 pharmacy major.

At past bingos, the winners played to win the prizes that Yeager and the rest of her board picked for the event. This type of bingo allows the winner to pick what they like with the correct sizing.

Yeager was joined by Kaelin Hughes, sophomore political science and history major and secretary, as her co-host of the night. Hughes entertained the crowd between rounds with shoe puns and knock-knock jokes, while Yeager kept the crowd engaged by using a call and response technique.

A powerpoint made by junior marketing major and marketing chair, Felicia Clark, allowed students playing to easily know what type of bingo and what prizes were being given during each round.

“It’s easier on us and the crowd when it

comes to communication during these events,” said Clark. “It makes time go a little faster when it is up on the board for show.”

Types of bingo for this event included the regular bingo, letter X, four corners, diagonal and coverall.

Prizes for this bingo were all shoes, which included Vans, Nike, Converse, Birkenstock, Crocs, Ugg, Fila, Doc Martens and more. The big prize for the coverall bingo at the end of the event was Timberlands.

Winners were given a brand of shoe and price range to choose from. The price range for the shoes ranged from \$70 for Crocs up to \$200 for Timberlands and as each round progressed, the price range for the brands increased.

The range of price allowed the winner to only pick one shoe. The range was not for winners to buy more than one shoe that would come to a total of the price range

they were given.

“It would not have been fair if one winner bought more than one (pair of shoes) while another winner came out of the event with four,” said Luz Castro, first year secondary education and history major, as well as small events chair.

Winners’ prizes will be available for pickup once their order ships and arrives at the school. More information and questions can be directed to programming board’s email at wupb@wilkes.edu.

Next week, programming board will be hosting Couch Potato. The food and everything else at the event will be potato-themed and will be held on Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. in the ballroom.

More information can be found by attending programming board’s meetings every other Thursday at noon in the Miller Room or by following their Instagram page [@wilkesupb](https://www.instagram.com/wilkesupb).



The crowd patiently waits for the numbers to be called during Shoe Bingo. Since this is programming board’s first in-person event and one they have never done before, it attracted a bigger crowd.



Programming boards secretary, Kaelin Hughes and small events chair, Luz Castro assist winners with purchasing shoes, such as Vans, Nike, Converse, Birkenstock, Crocs, Ugg, Fila, Doc Martens and Timberlands.

The Beacon/ AJ Rubino

Dollar store recipe: Pre-workout peanut butter ball snack

By Morgan Rich

Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer

These homemade peanut butter balls are an ideal snack to boost energy. These peanut butter balls pack lots of protein and will give you the energy to get through a tough workout or a long day of classes. This recipe is simple, no-bake and can be stored for up to three months if frozen.

Ingredients:

1 cup of quick oats
1 1/4 cup of peanut butter
1 cup of semi-sweet chocolate chips
1/4 teaspoon of honey (optional)
1/2 cup of granulated sugar
2 tablespoons of cinnamon

Directions:

First, combine the quick oats, peanut butter and 1/2 cup of semi-sweet chocolate chips into a large bowl. Mix

together all ingredients.

Next, cover the large bowl with saran wrap and chill in the refrigerator for one to two hours or until completely chilled.

Take the mixture out of the refrigerator and roll it into 1 inch balls.

Next, combine the sugar and cinnamon in a separate smaller bowl. Mix together all ingredients. Sprinkle the cinnamon sugar onto the peanut butter balls.

Put 1/2 cup of semi-sweet chocolate chips into a separate small bowl. Microwave for two minutes or until melted and mix halfway through. Grab a spoon and drizzle the chocolate onto the peanut butter balls.

Once completed, place the peanut butter balls in the refrigerator to harden the chocolate or serve as is.

Now you are done, enjoy!

Allergens: Dairy, nut products



The Beacon/Morgan Rich

Looking for an energizing pre-workout snack? Try making these tasty treats.



Beacon Bumps

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff adds a song to the Beacon Bumps playlist on spotify. Check us out under Chris Gowarty's Spotify or check out this week's picks right now!

Emily Cherkauskas, Editor-in-Chief:
The Violation - Fleshgod Apocalypse

Ariel Reed, Managing Editor:
Last Week - Landon Conrath

Liz Cherinka, Social Media Editor:
Lose It - SWMRS

News Editor: Maddy Kinard:
Hot Tub - Yung Gravy, Dilln Francis, T-Pain

Jordan Daniel, LA&E Editor:
All I Know - The Weeknd, Future

Bre Ebisch, Opinion Editor:
the movies - Nightly

Lindsey Scorey, Opinion Asst. Editor:
Only the Wild Ones - DISPATCH

Christopher Gowarty, Sports Editor:
The Color Violet - Tory Lanez

Baylee Guedes, Sports Editor:
Till I Die - Machine Gun Kelly

Jason Eberhart, Sports Asst. Editor:
Welcome To The Party - Pop Smoke

Lead Layout Designer, Zoey Rosensweet:
Virtual Aerobics - Wallows

Sordoni Art Gallery hosts family hour event for the public

Jan Lokuta gives lecture on American artists

By AJ Rubino

Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer

On Feb. 11, the Sordoni Art Gallery hosted its first family hour of 2022. The event celebrated Thomas Moran and George Catlin, who were both American artists involved with the Realism period of art history.

Jan Lokuta, a 1972 graduate of Wilkes, hosted a lecture about the artists and brought in his own sketches he created for people to color. Lokuta went into detail about the history of Catlin and Moran.

Catlin, born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., was a lawyer by trade like Lokuta himself who gave up the practice to become an artist. Catlin was known to suggest a national park and Lokuta went into detail about the story of the bison and the tribes.

Moran was born in England but raised in Philadelphia. His work focused on the landscape of Yellowstone and the Hudson River.

Lokuta's sketches at the event were based on three paintings of Moran's, one including "Catawissa Autumn 1865." This series of sketches made by Lokuta are known as "To Road to Yellowstone Starts Here".

All attendees were able to learn more about the works and life of famous artists, Catlin and Moran. After listening to Lokuta's lecture they were able to participate in celebrating Moran's work by coloring in the sketches Lokuta drew.

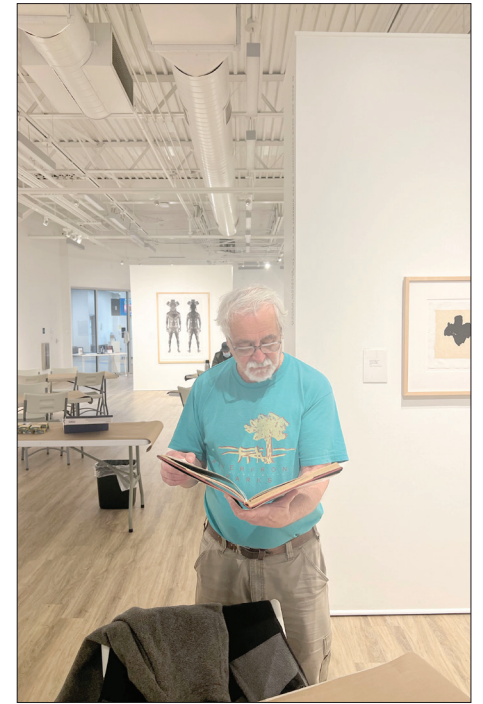
Afterward, guests were able to talk to Lokuta and ask any questions they had about his or the other two artists' works. Before leaving they were encouraged to take a look around the Sordoni Art Gallery's current exhibition, Juan Logan: Creating and Collecting if they had not already seen it.

The Sordoni Art Gallery will be hosting "A Special Evening with Juan Logan" on Feb. 16 on Zoom. The Juan Logan exhibit will be open to the public until March 13.

More information about events concerning the exhibit can be found by emailing the director of the Sordoni Art Gallery Heather Sincavage at heather.sincavage@wilkes.edu or by following their Instagram page @sordonigallery.



Jan Lokuta holds two of his paintings of "Camel's Ledge" and other scenery. The paintings are based off of Thomas Moran and George Catlin's own sketches. He brought these paintings in as a visual aid for his lecture.



Photos: The Beacon/AJ Rubino

Jan Lokuta reads from "Artists of the Old West" during his lecture.



Attendees were able to choose from four of Lokuta's works and color them in. Sketches include a rework of Thomas Moran's "View of the Catawissa Autumn 1865" and "Camel's Ledge."

Liz's Craft Column: Customizable shag rug wall decoration

A vintage and unique decoration perfect for any time of year

By Liz Cherinka

Social Media Manager

This craft is a shag rug wall decoration. This craft is easy and does not require a tufting gun to make the rug. It only requires supplies that can usually be found around the house. It adds a cute and vintage touch to any space and can be personalized to your taste. This craft is also affordable because it only requires a few supplies, which can be found at any craft store.

- Four colors of yarn, which can be personalized
- Scissors
- Cardboard
- Hot glue



1. First, cut a shape out of the cardboard. This shape can be personalized. The example uses a heart but it can be a star, circle or even a Wilkes logo, for example.

2. Then, cut the yarn into pieces that are 3 to 4 inches long. Cut a large amount of these pieces in each color with approximately equal amounts of each. You may need more further into the craft but try to cut a bunch of them ahead of time.



3. Grab a few pieces of the yarn, about six or seven and line them up in random color order in your hand evenly. Make a line about 1 to 1.5 inches long out of hot glue about an inch away from the bottom of the shape. With the pieces of yarn still in your hand, place the top of the pieces onto the line of hot glue before it dries. Do not push the yarn down onto the glue because it will be hot but gently place them down and the yarn will stick as the glue dries. Adjust pieces as needed to fill in gaps.

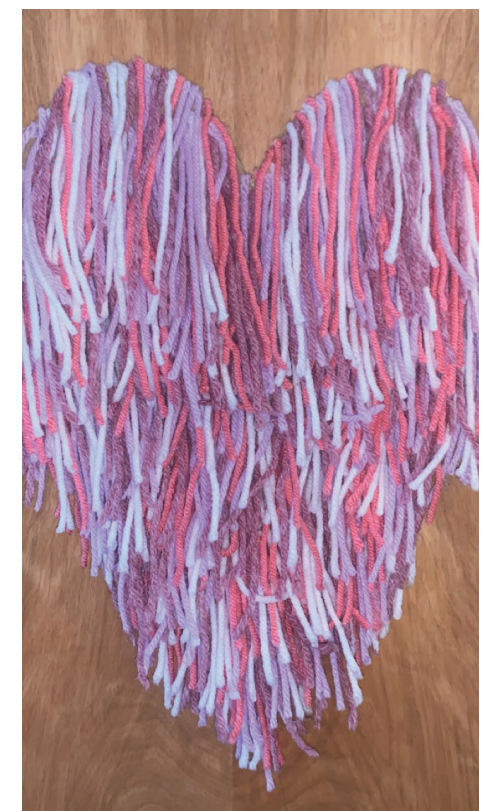
Cover the whole bottom of the shape across with the yarn. Put another line of glue about an inch above the existing yarn line and repeat the previous steps across the shape. Then, repeat this to cover the whole shape.

4. Around the edges of the shape, especially curved edges, put down a line of glue and individually place yarn pieces in random order onto it to make sure it follows the edge of the shape and it keeps its form.



5. Once the whole shape is covered, run your fingers gently through the yarn. This will straighten the yarn out and remove any stray pieces. Cut any pieces that may look abnormally long or out of place. Then, cut around the edge of the shape because pieces may hang long and distort what the shape is supposed to be.

Once the yarn pieces are adjusted, the shag rug decoration is complete. Feel free to hang this on any wall for a fun and unique touch.



Liz's difficulty rating:





Creative Colonel of the Week: Haley Katona

By Morgan Rich

Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer

Haley Katona, a junior political science major, is this week's pick for creative colonel. Katona's high school experiences and the urge to reinvent how she sees language and emotion are what fuels her passion for poetry.

According to Katona, she was always interested in writing and loved English her whole life but found that grief and injustice, both as concepts and emotions, are what pushed her into writing.

"I went through many personal incidents that affected me deeply, such as abuse and suicides of those around me, combined with the administration who was focused on sweeping wrongs under the carpet while allowing a dangerous environment for high school students to perpetuate," said Katona.

Katona usually writes about emotions since they can be difficult to understand. Normally, she writes about emotions that she has seen or experienced herself and translates them into imagery so others can interpret and relate to them.

"I deeply enjoy the process of stringing imagery and specific vocabulary together in order to convey emotion itself," said Katona.

Katona's vocabulary and imagery has not gone unnoticed by others and is what makes her work stand out.

"I especially enjoy her creative word choice which always creates a unique aesthetic and theme," said Jennifer Boch, senior history and international relations major. "In addition, there is a lovely balance of simplicity and complexity that makes it flow while also having

great depth."

During Katona's first year here, her friends urged her to submit her poetry to the university's creative writing magazine, Manuscript Society. Out of the work she submitted, three were published.

"I think Haley's poetry is of exceptional quality and has very meaningful content," said Boch. "When I read her poetry, I feel like I am reading something written by the romantics like Keats, Bysse-Shelley or Byron but in the modern age."

Currently, she has a private Instagram account where she posts her poems to display her artistic process. Katona has plans to eventually open it up like a publication release, expressing her disinterest about financial profit or popularity.

"I put it on there because it's kind of like piecing together a book in real-time," said Katona. "Though some pieces are heavy, my only real goal is to avoid self-censorship."

Katona describes writing as freedom not often thought of as freedom, which is her favorite part of writing. For her, it is hard to exactly describe how or why writing inspires her.

"Poetry helps cleanse wounds deeper than just speaking about emotions in my opinion," said Katona. "You are creating something where it was once destroyed."

Despite her passion for writing, Katona is set on a career in law and plans to become a civil rights attorney and hopes to eventually become a judge, focusing on trying to heal injustice.

However, this will not stop her from writing. Her end goal is to have at least one full collection of poetry published.



Courtesy of Haley Katona

Haley Katona's creativity shines in her writing of thoughtful and emotional poetry. Once she makes her poetry Instagram account public, people will be able to view her talent everywhere.

Want to showcase your skill and talents?
Contact jordan.daniel@wilkes.edu

No. 8 Colonels fall to No. 2 Utica in dramatic shootout

The No. 8 Wilkes Colonels men's ice hockey team took on the No. 2 Utica Pioneers in a matchup that left fans on the edge of their seats.

Senior Dylan Kuipers started off the first period with a goal for the Colonels, assisted by seniors Tyler Barrow and Phil Erickson.

Wilkes held Utica to no goals in the first period, but the Pioneers evened the score in the second period.

The third period remained scoreless for both teams, leading to a 3x3 overtime along with keeping the goalies in net. Wilkes and Utica played out the five-minute overtime with no scores.

To break the tie, Wilkes and Utica were faced with a shootout. The Pioneers won the shootout 2-0 over the Colonels.

After the loss, the men's ice hockey team became the No. 9 team.



Hynes watches on as the Colonels battle Utica. The teams tied in overtime at 1-1, only for the Colonels to lose in the shootout 2-0.

By Baylee Guedes

Photos: Baylee Guedes

Cutlines: Ariel Reed and Emily Cherkaskas

Page Design: Emily Cherkaskas



Coach Hynes passionately yells at his players during the intense game.



Senior goaltender Nico Pidro preps for the start of a new period.



Senior Nick Fea calculates his preferred attack method.



Senior Scott Mueller looks to clear the puck from the defending zone.



Junior Billy Berry cuts off a Utica defender for the puck.



Pidro saves a shot on goal from an incoming pioneer.

Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact the opinion editor: Breanna.Ebisch@wilkes.edu

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Interested in joining The Beacon? To learn more about what you can do, contact:
Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu
or Kalen.Churcher@wilkes.edu

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

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The Beacon
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Our Voice

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

To name or not to name: No easy decision

We all know what you are thinking. After reading the front cover, you might be wondering who did it. As student journalists, we would like to tell you. However, sometimes it is not that easy, even for those of us who value the First Amendment and transparency.

As a newspaper staff at a private school, we have not witnessed censorship, even when stories have not presented the positive side of the university or when columns have outright criticized it. Thus, when the 'advice' from student affairs was to not name in The Beacon the student involved with plagiarism, we considered all options. We had multiple conversations with many people. We discussed a variety of hypotheticals.

The university allowed The Beacon to make the final decision.

Ultimately, we followed the advice of student affairs, but that doesn't mean that we support it.

We find it upsetting that the individual involved is not directly identified, while our staff members continue to have their names listed in a publication that has had its reputation tarnished. The solid work that our journalists have completed has

been shadowed by a nameless author, but we urge the campus community to realize that we take our jobs seriously.

Every week, The Beacon's student journalists go out into the field to get as much information as they can about current campus events, write their pieces and ensure they are in proper news writing format. Afterward, editors spend several hours editing said stories and laying out 24 pages to ensure clarity and quality for our readers.

Do mistakes happen?

Yes. However, those mistakes pale in comparison to the repeated use of unattributed, verbatim sentences and paragraphs used by the former Beacon columnist.

According to Wilkes University's Statement on Academic Honesty, Intellectual Responsibility and Plagiarism, plagiarism is a serious violation of campus policy. This student consented to having their name published at least 19 times, and we would argue that their name should be published again.

However, we also realize that there are potential ramifications in a private university setting that are different than

those in a traditional newspaper.

We realize that, but it doesn't mean we like it.

That being said, let us remind you that nothing can ever be truly erased from the internet.

Your digital footprint follows you throughout the course of your entire life, and journalism prints are archived.

We hope the student involved learned their lesson and realizes the ramifications of what they have done. As mentioned on Page 1, we at The Beacon have made changes to our training and editing processes.

We will work diligently to regain the trust of our readers.

Furthermore, we encourage our readers to contact us if something does not seem right. Open communication among everyone allows for a higher quality product.

We want to hear from you, and we hope we do. Our editors and staff members' names can be found on this page, as well as our faculty adviser's.

Our office is in 118 Karambelas.

Stop by and let us show you what real journalists do.

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

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

Email: Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu or Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu

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

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

The social repercussions of male nudity in 'Euphoria'

The juxtaposition of men's and women's nudity

By **Lindsey Scorey**
Assistant Opinion Editor

Editor's note: this page contains graphic and potentially triggering themes and content.

Since its second season launch, the show "Euphoria" has become quite popular on social media in terms of controversy and conversation. One major characteristic of the show that was called to attention was its frequent use of male nudity.

A large proponent of this show is its social commentary on drug use, diverse love stories and sexualization of the characters involved. Many fans took to social media with surprise about the amount of nudity of both male and female characters.

Traditionally speaking, mainstream media tends to favor the use of female nudity and ideation.

Why might this be? Well for starters, the Federal Communications Commission regulates the legality of nudity on broadcast television, setting a standard that seeing a woman's breasts is more likely than a man's penis.

"Euphoria" is streamed through HBO Max, making it exempt from any of the FCC's regulations on full or partial nudity, which they have certainly taken advantage of.

The Use of Male Nudity

What makes this show so unique is the fact that the creators have desensitized the role of sex, especially in how the male body just as idolized.

According to Mel Magazine, season one alone showed 71 clear depictions of male genitalia.

Many fans or critics would argue that more male nudity is not a narrative need for the show or that an eye-for-an-eye strategy of male to female nudity ratio satisfies neither party.

I would argue this was not a tactic for plot-point, but rather for audience shock and conversation. By providing male nudity in a frame we rarely see it in, the

producers spark conversations surrounding why we do not question a woman's nude scenes, but we take note when it is a man's.

Ah yes, we have hit a gender double standard.

However, in providing an arguably explicit framework, the show has room to intrigue audiences into those romantic or abusive dynamics covered in the series and what their implications may be.

Sex as a Tool

In many cases, the sexual relationships between characters or sexual confidence is important to their plotline and growth.

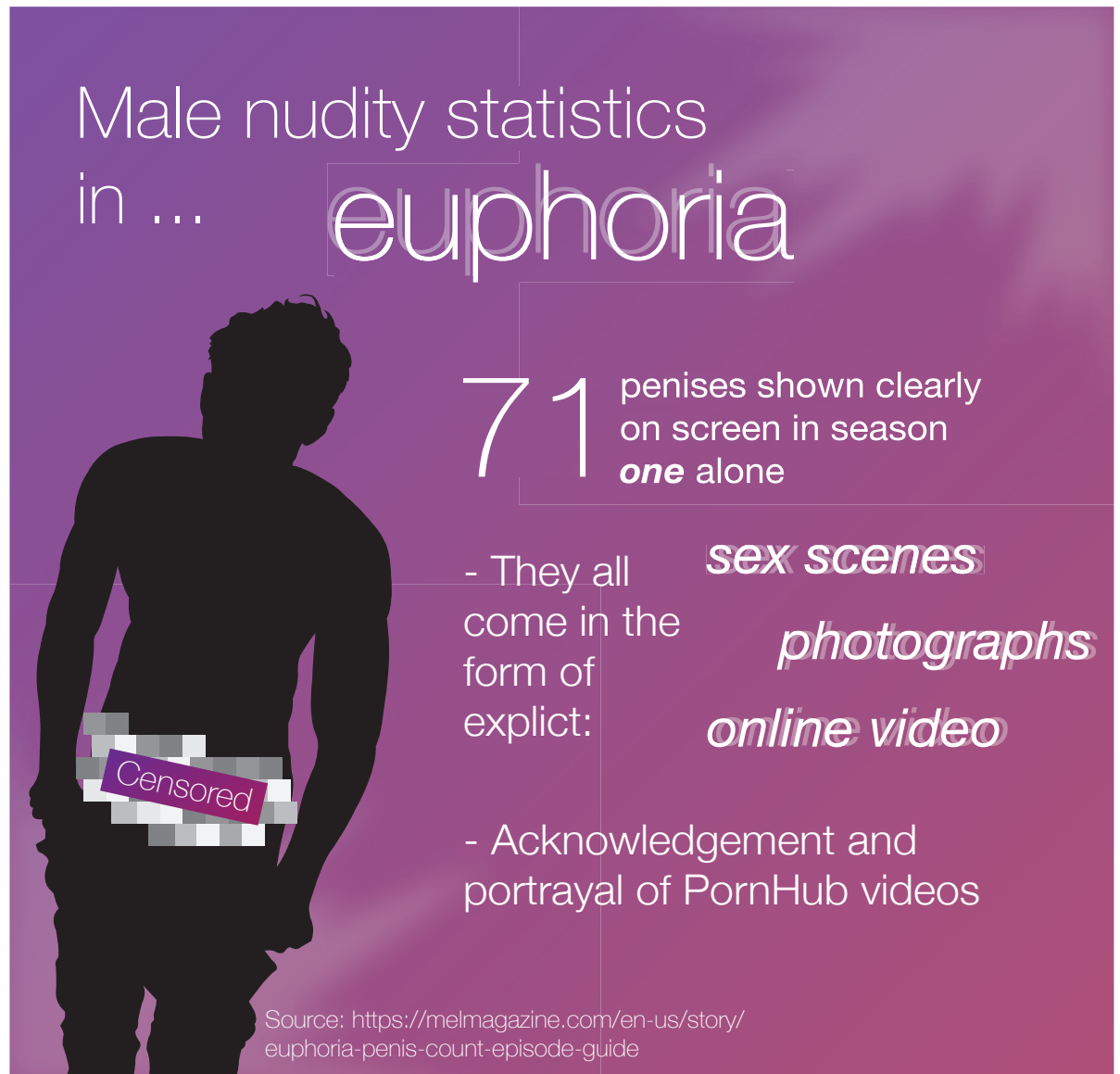
For "Euphoria," sex is a tool for blackmail. It is a commodity, it is a way to strengthen a first love, it is a personal awakening, but most importantly it is a way to add to the plot.

The depiction of queer relationships also intensifies the intersectionality of the sexual storylines.

Characters are not exempt from any form of misdeed because of their identities. This can make for fans upset or excitedness on a week by week basis as new episodes air and plot lines thicken.

Exemptions Made

The concept of nudity in the show



does bring out a commentary on fame and choice as well.

Zendaya, arguably the most famous celebrity to star in "Euphoria," has an ironclad no-nudity clause in her contract. Her lack of nudity may be because Zendaya refuses to have a role in which she is exposed to that degree. However, it is speculative that the greater the fame, the less the sacrifice of self-exposure is necessary.

Take Sydney Sweeney for example. After she gained fame for her role of Cassie, she publicized her decision to remain with the show as long as she gets

more decision in her level of nudity after regretting some earlier explicit scenes.

Additionally, as Mel Magazine notes, Eric Dane used a prosthetic for his nude scenes as Cal Jacobs. The famous actor, previous McSteamy of "Grey's Anatomy," has much acting experience and the sight of him naked seems to be of much interest to audiences compared to those actors of less fame.

This show's notorious social commentary and creative choice is not over yet. These conversation starters are only the beginning of media productions to come in the future.

Former Dolphins head coach future career in ruins?

By Zara Lantzman

Opinion Staff Writer

Former Miami Dolphins head coach Brian Flores may have ruined his career, after it was revealed that he is allegedly suing the NFL, the Dolphins, the Denver Broncos and the New York Giants for racism and discrimination.

The last time the league was challenged like this was Colin Kaepernick and he was blacklisted for that behavior.

Before filing the lawsuit, Flores was shockingly fired by the Dolphins. Even though he was fired, he was regarded as the top coach for the head coach vacancies.

Brian Flores' three-year record with the Dolphins was 24-25. The Dolphins had arguably the worst roster in the league in Flores's first year, with a record of 5-11. The team was so bad that the Dolphins offered to pay Flores \$100,000 to lose games and tank. Flores refused and that was one of the reasons he was fired.

In the 2020-21 season, the Dolphins had it with him when he benched veteran quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick for rookie quarterback Tua Tagovailoa after a 3-3 record. Tagovailoa's record was 6-3 on the season.

In the 2021-22 season, the Dolphins started the season 1-7 and then won seven straight to bring their record to 8-7, giving them a legitimate shot at the playoffs. The Dolphins ended the season with a record of 9-8. This apparently warranted the Flores firing.

This led to Flores filing a lawsuit against the Dolphins and the NFL for



Graphic by Jack Malatesta

discrimination.

This is not the first time that race was associated with the Dolphins. In 2013, there was a bullying scandal involving offensive guard Richie Incognito and offensive line coach Jim Turner. These individuals bullied offensive linemen Jonathan Martin to the point that he quit playing in the middle of the season. According to Palm Beach Daily News, owner Stephen Ross said "this bullying incident was really a product of racism."

This makes the Dolphins' stance on Flores look even worse. The Broncos and

Giants lawsuits are not the same as the Dolphins lawsuit, as they relate to the infamous Rooney Rule. The Rooney Rule is in place to give minorities a chance to become a head coach or general manager.

The Rooney Rule was implemented in 2003 and, in all honesty, has not been effective. Teams have lacked effort in hiring these minority coaches.

The Broncos released a statement essentially denying all claims. They claimed they interviewed Flores for three and a half hours.

Flores claimed that general manager

John Elway seemed disgruntled, when in reality, it was allegedly because they had two interviews back to back in the early morning. At this time, there is not any more information on the Broncos side of the lawsuit.

On Jan. 24, Patriots head coach Bill Belichick sent a text to Flores implying that the Giants will hire him for head coach. Flores was confused as his interview was still three days away on Jan. 27. Belichick meant to text former Bills' offensive coordinator, Brian Daboll, but sent the message to the wrong contact.

It was clear the Giants did not care to hire Flores as they already planned on hiring Daboll three days before the Flores interview. The Giants released a statement and the itinerary for the Flores interview. The Giants claimed the allegations made by Flores were disturbing and false.

Flores finished meeting with the Giants at 3:30 p.m., according to the itinerary. Daboll was announced as the new head coach 27 hours later. That is not enough time to seriously evaluate a potential head coach.

Flores' lawsuit is already making an impact as the Houston Texans hired Lovie Smith to be the head coach of the Texans.

Flores released a statement saying he is happy that Smith got hired, but feels cheated as he was in the top three candidates. He claimed that he did not get hired because of the ongoing lawsuit within the NFL.

When it is all said and done, regardless of the outcome, Brian Flores may be blackballed out of the league.

We want to hear your voice!

Let your thoughts be known within the community. Join the Opinion section!

CONTACT:

Opinion Editor: Breanna.Ebisch@wilkes.edu

Politics, culture, social issues

Reviewing art, literature, movies, music

Columns, petitions, letters to the editor



Junior year comparisons: High school versus college

By Rudy Urenovich
Staff Writer

Junior. What exactly is a junior?

Someone who has some rank or position, but is not the highest, or at the top. A son who shares the same name as his father, a driver's license for some new 16-year-old, but also a year in school. Junior year. A year that is almost as perplexing and complex as the many meanings behind the word from which it was named.

It has been my experience that junior year is always the worst year of school; both high school, college and beyond. "Worst" may be too harsh, yet also too simple and ignorant a word to describe junior year.

Junior year is not really bad, but rather overwhelming.

Ah yes, that is the word.

'The Fallout' review: A piece of art, or a flat-out mess?

By Hannah Simerson
Staff Writer

"The Fallout" released on HBO Max on Jan. 27 and has garnered much attention on social media. The film was well received by younger audiences, as most felt it was a beautifully crafted commentary on the current social climate. However, it was not so highly regarded among other viewers.

"The Fallout" follows Vada, played by Jenna Ortega, and Mia, played by Maddie Ziegler, as they navigate the aftermath of a school shooting.

The unlikely pair find companionship amidst the trauma and what ensues is an hour and a half testimony of what coping looks like.

This film was high on my radar and I was very eager to watch it. The cast lineup caught my attention, but the TikTok praise convinced me to press play. For the first twenty minutes, I was hooked. The scene where the shooting took place was so honest and wonderfully acted that I was optimistic going into the rest of the film. This optimism was quickly diminished as I kept watching.

ju · nior (noun)

"A student in the next-to-the-last-year before graduating in an educational institution."

Merriam-Webster

Graphic by Emily Cherkauskas

The first two years are child's play. Getting your feet wet. Slowly immersing yourself in your education. I can remember attending group assemblies in high school and in college, where the presenters would frequently say: "Freshmen and sophomores, don't worry, this doesn't apply to you yet."

Junior year is when everything gets really... well, real.

Junior year is the time when you may want to examine your GPA, amp up your involvement in extracurricular activities and look beyond your current education. You seem to have so much free time prior to junior year, but during it, even managing a regular class schedule seems impossible.

You are in the depths of your education; it's coming at you full steam.

Gone are the easy introductory level courses, advanced classes all around. But at the same time, you're forced to look at your future beyond school, right in its scary face. Especially in college.

Internships, field studies, work experience and making connections for after graduation are high priorities.

Just when you are getting the feel of college courses, developing a social circle and feeling at home and at ease on campus, it sets in that you will not be there for much longer and have to prepare for the *shudders* real world. It is very easy to feel like you cannot handle much more, doubt your previous decisions and have doubts for the future.

I will leave you with some sage advice my mother gives me when I complain profusely about where I am in life: "It just gets worse."

What it did wrong

I am sensitive to my suspension of disbelief, and this film took me right out of it, mostly by the language used. I admit that I may not be completely aware of the language used by the younger generations, but the verbiage used between Vada and Mia, especially the text messages, was so foreign and unnatural.

It was hard to see Vada and Mia as organic in any sense of the word. Their language was rigid and awkward, plus their in-person interactions were so uncomfortable that I had to turn away from the screen a few times. There was little to no chemistry between the two main characters, and this affected my suspension of disbelief.

What it did right

"The Fallout" did hit some marks, however. Although the interactions between Vada and Mia were so intensely uncomfortable to watch, this subsequently offered a real account of the awkwardness of young, explorative love.

The film also did an effective job

of displaying the various definitions of what it looks like to cope with such a trauma. Nobody coped in the same way and this point was readily recognized and received.

The ending of "The Fallout" was powerful and impactful. In less than one minute, the ending sequence did what the entire film so desperately tried to do. Regardless, the last minute of the film is memorable and thought-provoking.

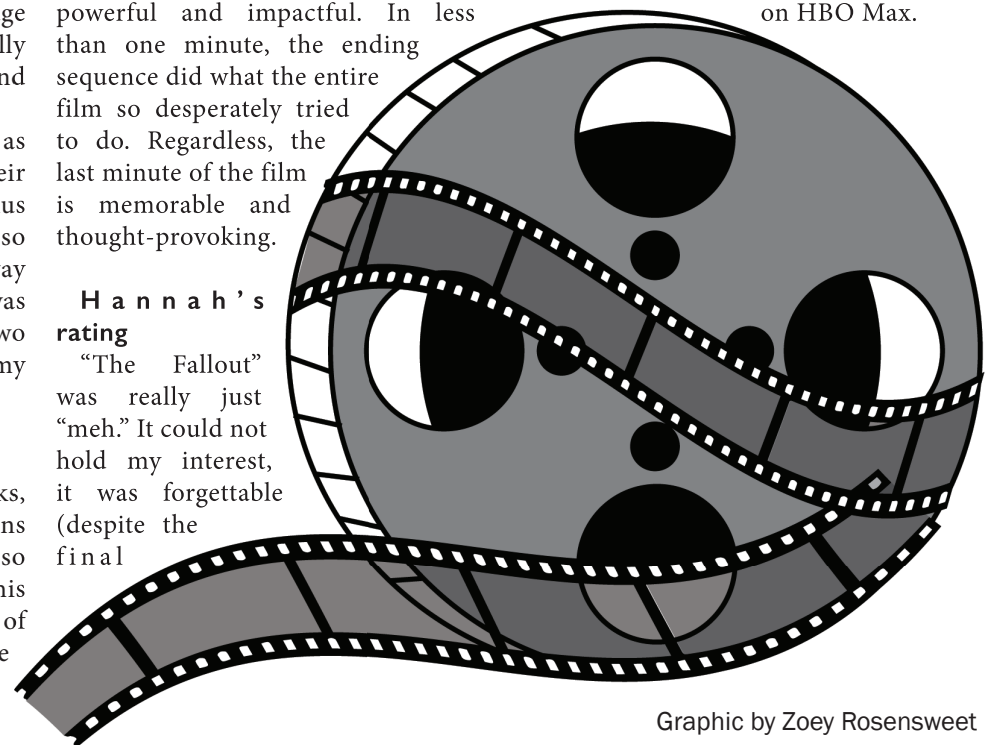
Hannah's rating

"The Fallout" was really just "meh." It could not hold my interest, it was forgettable (despite the final

minute) and it felt as if it had no point.

I wanted to love this film, but overall, I must rate it five out of ten stars. With such an impressive premise and cast, I expected much more.

"The Fallout" is out now on HBO Max.



Graphic by Zoey Rosensweet

The real threat banned books pose to our education

By Breanna Ebisch
Opinion Editor

Banned books are not new. For years, particular books have been under fire simply due to the content that is contained within the pages. Many that are considered classics and teach students about crucial topics such as race, LGBTQ+ issues, gender and much more.

But as schools across the country remove these crucial books from the curriculum, it's important to understand how these actions pose a great threat to our education and future citizens of the United States.

Our country has become very polarized in recent years for a variety of reasons ranging from political views to beliefs on human rights issues. Out of everything that has been affected in our lives, the education system is one of the hardest hit.

The education offered to the children

in this country should teach them what is necessary to know and help better the country later in life. Which means teaching them about what some may think are uncomfortable topics. The long list of banned books, which include titles like *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, *The Hate U Give* and *Speak* to name a few, are a threat to the education that American children are receiving.

It is naive to think that these topics should not be taught through these fictional novels.

Racism is a part of American history and is still present in the current state of our nation. Gender violence and discrimination is still occurring on an everyday basis.

The LGBTQ+ community is growing in our country and around the world. How can we send children into their "real life" after graduating without being prepared to face these very real issues? Why is limiting the curriculum by

removing books deemed problematic or would corrupt young minds the answer?

It isn't.

There is power in knowledge and banned books are limiting the crucial education our children need. The issues these books touch on are not going away without changes happening which must start with the younger generation.

Creating close minded individuals who are not exposed to the truth about the world and our country is harmful in many ways.

While schools in various states may be pulling novels off the shelves, it doesn't mean the books are gone forever. Stand up for what you believe is right, continue reading "banned" books and stay informed on the ugly truths of the world.

Because that's the only way change will be enacted.

Graphic by Jack Malatesta



Death of viewership by far-right vaccine misinformation

By Sydney Allabaugh
Staff Writer

It is now February 2022, nearly two years since the first documented COVID-19 case in America, and new cases each day remain in the tens of thousands. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tells us the solution is in vaccines, but millions remain unvaccinated.

Who are these people?

According to a poll published last November by the Kaiser Family Foundation, the demographic factor contributing most to vaccination status is not race or income, but rather, political party.

Of the polled unvaccinated adults, a whopping 60 percent identified as Republicans compared to 17 percent of Democrats and 17 percent true Independents. Why are Republicans so disproportionately hesitant to get the vaccine? Far-right news may be responsible.

According to a survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, there are three major reasons why the majority-Republican

unvaccinated population shows hesitation: they are concerned about side effects, they lack trust in the vaccines and government and they do not believe the virus is dangerous. Right-wing news outlets capitalize on these concerns by amplifying existing distrust in government and the CDC by feeding into propaganda and spreading misinformation.

One example of this is a recent article published by far-right news network OANN entitled: "Mainstream Media Colluding With FDA, CDC To Cover Up Skyrocketing Deaths From China Virus Vaccines." Insinuating that vaccines are unsafe and are a part of a large government conspiracy is a dangerous message to spread when the COVID-19 death toll continues to



Graphic by Jack Malatesta

rise. The CDC states that the vaccines are safe and that it is rare to face severe complications, but OANN consumers read these false headlines about vaccine deaths and treat it as the truth as they lack trust in the CDC.

Tucker Carlson of Fox News, who has the most-watched cable news show, is another perpetrator of spreading misinformation. He invites guests on his show like conspiracy theorist Alex Berenson who told Carlson's massive audience, "The mRNA COVID vaccines need to be withdrawn from the market now. No one should get them. No one should get boosted." The CDC informs us that the likelihood of facing serious COVID-19 complications is significantly reduced with the vaccine, yet Carlson continues to

advocate against it and instead compares vaccine mandates to medical experiments conducted by Nazi Germany.

The constant consumption of misinformation and fear-inducing conspiracies is creating lethal consequences for Republicans. According to an NPR study, people living in counties that went 60 percent or higher for Trump in the 2020 election are 2.73 times more likely to die of COVID-19 than the people in Biden-leaning counties.

The death toll increases as the Republican concentration increases. The reddest tenth of the country was 5.5 times higher to die of COVID-19 than the bluest tenth.

Misinformation kills, so here's the truth: Vaccines are safe and effective against this virus.

If millions remain unvaccinated, the virus will continue to spread and mutate. Living in a pandemic may become a permanent reality if we do not reach herd immunity. Listen to the experts and get the vaccine if you haven't.

Your life depends on it.

Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Editors: Christopher.Gowarty@wilkes.edu or Baylee.Guedes@wilkes.edu

Wilkes basketball travels to Del. Val. for a MAC match-up



Top: Sophomore Jackson Shafer shoots a wide-open 3-pointer.
Bottom: Junior Nickerson DeMelfi defends a Delaware Valley ball handler.



Top: Sophomore Julia Marino passes to an open teammate.
Bottom: First-year Bella Mckeefery applies ball pressure to a Delaware Valley player.



Top: Head coach Izzi Metz encourages his team during a timeout.
Bottom: Sophomore Julia Marino drives into the lane looking for an easy layup.

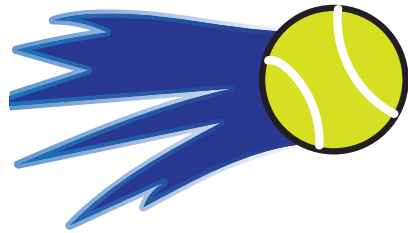


Photos: The Beacon/Jason Eberhart and Ariel Reed

Tennis looks to extend dominance in the MAC-Freedom

By Jason Eberhart
Asst. Sports Editor

The men's and women's tennis teams will be looking to continue their dominant success through the MAC-Freedom as their season kicked off this past weekend. Wilkes will be led by first-year head coach Todd Kane as he takes over the program.

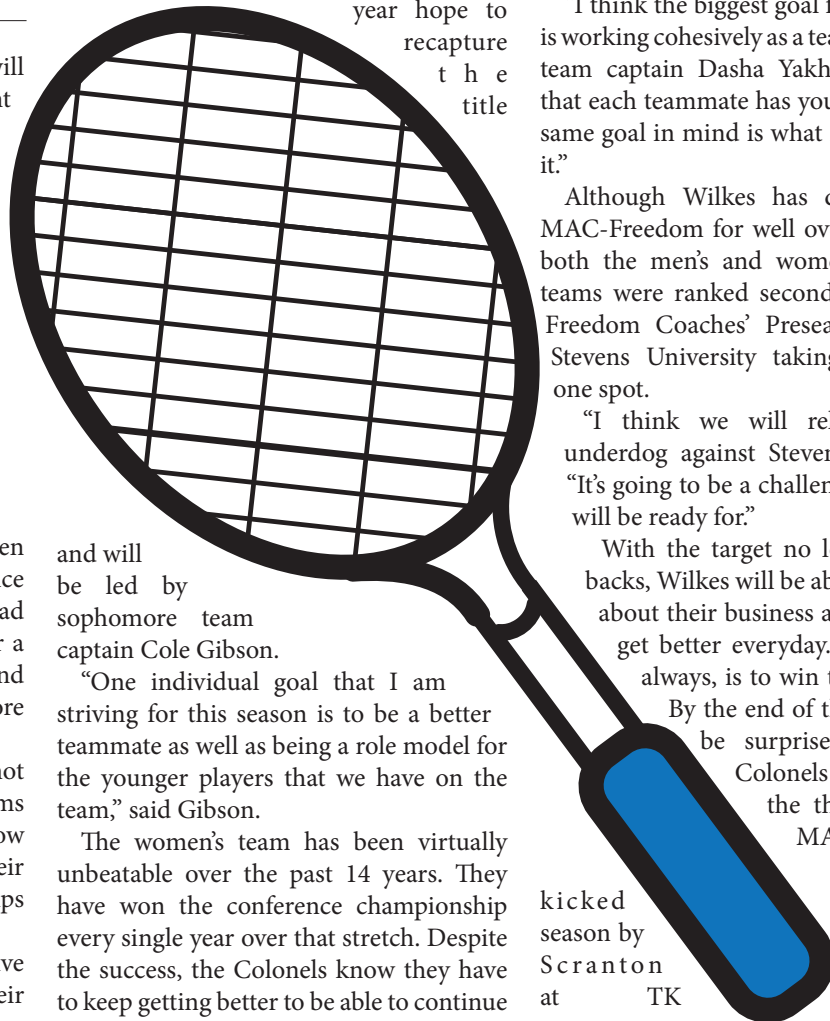


The Colonels have been hard at work in practice everyday since returning to campus. They have only had a few weeks of practice to get ready for a daunting schedule ahead of them, and have a lot of things to figure out before their season kicks off.

"Taking over in late September did not give me much time to spend with the teams to figure out lineups," said Kane. "Now I have a better understanding of their strengths and weaknesses which helps when putting doubles lineups together."

The men's team had won 12 consecutive conference championships before their streak was broken last season. The players

on the team this year hope to recapture the title



and will be led by sophomore team captain Cole Gibson.

"One individual goal that I am striving for this season is to be a better teammate as well as being a role model for the younger players that we have on the team," said Gibson.

The women's team has been virtually unbeatable over the past 14 years. They have won the conference championship every single year over that stretch. Despite the success, the Colonels know they have to keep getting better to be able to continue

their streak.

"I think the biggest goal for us currently is working cohesively as a team," said senior team captain Dasha Yakhnis. "Knowing that each teammate has your back and the same goal in mind is what makes it worth it."

Although Wilkes has dominated the MAC-Freedom for well over a decade on both the men's and women's side, both teams were ranked second in the MAC-Freedom Coaches' Preseason Poll with Stevens University taking the number one spot.

"I think we will relish being an underdog against Stevens," said Kane. "It's going to be a challenge our athletes will be ready for."

With the target no longer on their backs, Wilkes will be able to quietly go about their business and continue to get better everyday. Their goal, as always, is to win the conference.

By the end of the year, do not be surprised to see the Colonels sitting back on the throne atop the MAC-Freedom.

Both teams kicked off their season by facing rival Scranton University at TK Academy.

The men's team captured their first win of the season 6-3, and the women soon followed, as they defeated the Royals 7-2.

Wilkes will look to continue their winning ways as both teams travel to Ithaca College on Saturday.

MAC Preseason Ranking

Men's #2 Wilkes

Women's #2 Wilkes

Graphic by Zoey Rosensweet

Photo courtesy of Wilkes Athletics

THE BEACON

Player of the Game: Dasha Yakhins

Doubles Match	Singles Match #1	Singles Match #2
8-0	6-3	7-5

MVB: Tri-match in-brief *LHAC, from frontcover*

By Ariel Reed
Managing Editor

WILKES--BARRE, Pa. — The volleyball team split their games against Messiah and Wells on Saturday, Feb. 12.

In their conference game against Messiah University, the Colonels dropped all three sets.

Wilkes kept it close in the first set as the score was 17-15, but an 8-3 run by the Falcons would be the downfall of the Colonels in the first set.

Messiah went on to close the other two sets in a similar fashion. Sophomores Paul Binner and Noah Taylor paced the Colonels with five and four kills, respectfully.

In the second game of the day, Wilkes dominated on the court.

Wells College was unable to get enough momentum to lead the Colonels throughout their sets.

Wilkes jumped out to early leads in all of their sets. Wells made several attempts to win a set, but they were unsuccessful due to the surplus of kills out of Taylor and senior Ethan Speicher.

Taylor recorded 11 kills in the matchup while Speicher recorded a season high of 10.

The Colonels return to action tonight as they travel across the 'Barre to take on the Monarchs at 7 p.m..



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Noah Taylor got up for a big hit against Penn State Behrend on Feb. 5.

“We ultimately feel that it places Wilkes in the company of institutions that are similar in size, scope and philosophy and that offer research intensive programs from bachelor’s through doctoral levels,” said President Greg Cant.

Of the 23 NCAA Division III programs, Wilkes athletes will be able to compete in Landmark-sponsored sports. They are baseball, men’s and women’s basketball, men’s and women’s cross country, field hockey, football, men’s and women’s golf, men’s and women’s lacrosse, men’s and women’s soccer, softball, men’s and women’s swimming, and men’s and women’s tennis and women’s volleyball.

“We are excited for the challenge of playing the best competition in the country,” said head football coach Jon Drach. “We will continue to focus on the process of continual improvement and the outcomes will take care of themselves. We have been building to this since I arrived in 2018 and we are ready to face any challenge that is put in front of us on the field as a team and as an athletic department.”

Although these sports are moving up in the conference, others currently remain out. Men’s and women’s ice hockey teams will continue to play in the United Collegiate Hockey Conference; wrestling will continue participating in regional competitions and post-season tournaments in the attempt to qualify for

natural championships. Men’s volleyball, an unsponsored sport in the Landmark Conference, will remain unaffiliated for the time being.

“It is a great opportunity for us to play different teams,” said first-year women’s basketball player Emma Stout. “While it is sad to leave, especially not playing King’s as a conference game, I am personally excited to have two seasons from both conferences. It may be a struggle in the process of moving, I believe that every team will take on the challenge and strive.”

As Stout mentioned, the transfer of conferences does bring up the potential for lost rivalry between the MAC schools that are less than 10 miles away from each other (King’s and Misericordia).

Drach discussed that the rivalries between the schools will still continue on despite the conference change. He mentioned that the King’s game in the past season and the upcoming season for football was conducted as an out of conference game and he could not “see a lack of intensity on the field from either team.”

The LHAC is known for being not only an athletically competitive conference, but also an academically competitive conference.

“We look forward to this new opportunity with incredible gratitude to the MAC and its member institutions and with the goal of continuing regional non-conference competition and collaboration,” said Cant.

THE BEACON

Player of the Game: Noah Taylor

Kills	Blocks	Aces
11	0	2

Getting to know...

Tyler Dill

Senior Ice Hockey Player

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week Feb. 2 to Feb. 9

Why Tyler Dill was selected: Dill scored three goals, three assists and was plus three with 12 shots on goal during their slew of games. In addition to this accolade, Dill was also honored with the title of UCHC Player of the week.

Name: Tyler Dill

Year: Senior

Major: Business Administration

Hometown: South Lake Tahoe, Calif.

High School: South Tahoe H.S.

Position: Forward

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

Skiing, working out and hanging out with the guys.

Favorite meal to eat on campus?

Breakfast at the sub.

What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?

Yellow.

If your life was a movie, who would you want to play you and why?

Chris Hemsworth.

If you could have dinner with a famous person from the past, who would it be?

Either Biggie Smalls or Abraham Lincoln.

Most influential person in your life?

My parents.

A quote you live your life by?

"Adversity makes a man" – Nick Yzagurrie.

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

Giving back to the community and doing all the little thing rights.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?

My coach from Junior Ryan Cruthers and the entire organization of the Charlotte Rush.

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

I had a lot of friends that were playing for Wilkes and they had nothing but great things to say about the school and the culture of the team.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

I want to play professional hockey for a few years after graduating and then hopefully get into coaching hockey.

Favorite Memory as a Colonel?

Being able to compete during Covid last year. Many schools didn't get the opportunity to play and I am very grateful we were allowed to play.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

Win a UCHC championship and go to the NCAA tournament.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I played a lot of sports growing up and my mom had me try hockey and I fell in love with in.

Favorite thing to do during practice?

Small area games and anything that can bring the competition up within the team.



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."

The Beacon/Ariel Reed

-Compiled by Ariel Reed, Managing Editor

This week there will be no female athlete of the week as there was a shortage of games due to cancellations.

King's coach says... The facts...



Jeff Knarr
@jeff_knarr

I guess if I Lost 4 out of 5 Mayor's Cup games, I would look for a new conference as well! @KingsCollegeFB #KingsBarre
Landmark looking to add two for football AQ [d3football.com/notables/2022/...](https://d3football.com/notables/2022/)



18:34 · 2/9/22 · [Twitter Web App](#)

21 Retweets 3 Quote Tweets 54 Likes

This tweet has been deleted as of Sunday, Feb. 13.

By Ariel Reed
Managing Editor

On Feb. 9, head coach Jeff Knarr of the King's College football team tweeted this infographic taunting Wilkes in its then-potential decision to switch from the Middle Atlantic Conference to the Landmark Conference.

This decision was not made official until Thursday, Feb. 10. In his tweet, he claimed to have been the ruler of "Kings-Barre."

The Beacon has decided to lay out the

facts based on preliminary research and have the readers decide who really runs the 'Barre.

Wilkes' head coach Jon Drach joined the Colonels in Feb. of 2018.

In his first season, he generated one of the biggest program turn arounds in DIII football when he led his team to a 6-4 record after the team was winless in the 2017 season.

In the Drah era, the Colonels have posted a cumulative 20-12 record.

Drach's most record-breaking season

AT KING'S | HEAD COACH

- Has posted an overall record at King's of 42-68 with the Monarch football program, going 36-53 within the difficult Middle Atlantic Conference.
- Program has won five or more games in six seasons since becoming the head coach at King's.
- Has continued to show his recruiting prowess, with teams over the 100 player mark routinely during his time at King's.

was in 2019 when he led Wilkes to an 8-3 overall record, the best in the program since their undefeated season in 2006.

In addition, under Drach, the Colonels have not seen a record under 0.500. Drach's four years as head coach.

Concurrently, King's head coach Jeff Knarr has posted a minimum of a 0.500 record every season that he has been head coach.

However, despite the record posted by Knarr, he has been able to find a way to defeat Wilkes in the Mayor's Cup four out of the five years of the program's rivalry.

In a head-to-head statistical match-up, Wilkes beats Kings in most categories, including the win column.

All stats and information that is provided was found on either gowilkesu.com or kingscollegeathletics.com.

Coach Jeff Knarr did not return an email seeking comment on the tweet.

The Beacon encourages any student response in the form of a letter to the editor or an email to Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu.

Photos: The Beacon/Ariel Reed

CAREER RECORD

Year	Overall	MAC Freedom
2021	5-5	3-5
2020	0-0	0-0
2019	5-5	3-5
2018	5-5	4-4
2017	5-5	4-5
2016	5-5	5-4
2015	3-7	3-6
2014	4-6	4-5
2013	6-4	6-3
2012	2-8	2-7
2011	1-9	1-7
2010	1-9	1-7
at KC	37-63	33-48
TOTAL	42-68	36-53

Door's open!

The Beacon is always welcoming new staff! We are looking for:

- Writers
- Photographers
- Designers
- Distribution managers
- Advertising managers

Contact:

Editor-in-Chief:

Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu

Managing Editor:

Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu

