



Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

# THE BEACON

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

## Former Wilkes professor arraigned on felony charges, including criminal attempt-unlawful contact with minor

By Amanda Montgomery  
News Editor

A former Wilkes-University psychology professor was arraigned earlier this month on multiple felony charges, including criminal attempt - unlawful contact with minor, according to arrest papers.

Edward John Schicatanò, 59, of Plains Township, was involved in a sex sting on Aug. 7, by Musa Harris. Harris calls himself the Luzerne County Predator Catcher. Harris posted video to social media of his alleged confrontation with Schicatanò.

According to the criminal complaint:

Harris posed online as a 15-year-old girl and received a message from "Lora Smith." Smith was ultimately identified as Schicatanò. Schicatanò asked for the girl's age and was told "almost 16 years old." He then replied, "I'm sorry. Too young".

The online conversation continued, and police say that Schicatanò sent the girl a photo of two men engaged in a sexual act. He also repeatedly expressed concern over the girl's age and whether

the FBI was involved. He eventually wanted to meet the girl.

Police said Harris provided them with video of his alleged confrontation, and they were able to identify the man in the video as Schicatanò.

Wilkes University President Greg Cant issued an email on Aug. 21 about "very serious accusations ... against a longtime member" of the university's faculty. Cant did not specifically name Schicatanò.

According to the email, the university was made aware of the allegations on Aug. 19, and initiated its review process. As of Aug. 21, "the faculty member in question (was) no longer employed by the university, an outcome achieved in accordance with the steps outlined in the Faculty Handbook."

Contacted this week, Cant's office would not discuss the matter further, stating it does not comment on personnel decisions. A representative from Cant's office did confirm that Schicatanò is not currently employed by the university.

Dr. Paul Riggs, dean of arts and sciences, also declined to comment.

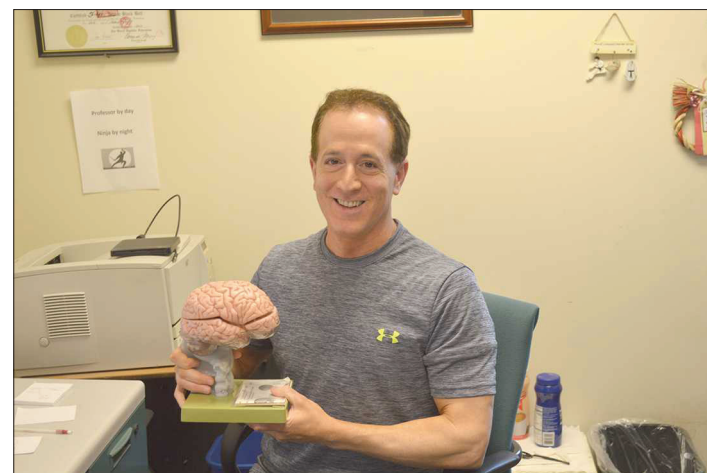
"He was the best professor I ever had..." said a student who spoke on

the condition of anonymity. "It feels like something was taken away from me."

According to Beacon files, Schicatanò received his Bachelor's Degree from Bloomsburg University, his PhD from Wake Forest University, and did post-doctoral research at SUNY Stony Brook in the field of neurobiology.

In a 2015 profile, Schicatanò told The Beacon that he decided to pursue a teaching career at Wilkes because of the benefits of teaching in a small, personable community. Schicatanò said that if he were to teach on a large and more populated campus, he would not have the same rapport with students.

Schicatanò is charged with criminal attempt - unlawful contact with minor - obscene and other sexual materials



Beacon file photo

and performances; criminal attempt - dissemination of explicit sexual material to a minor; and criminal use of a communication facility, according to arrest papers.

He was arraigned by District Justice James Haggerty and released on \$50,000 unsecured bail.

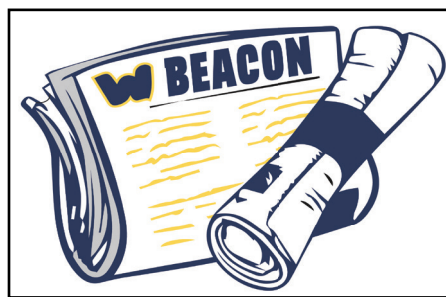
A preliminary hearing is scheduled at 9 a.m. on Sept. 20 with Luzerne County Central Court.



Cupboards, Closets  
and Care: On-campus  
resources, page 5



An inside look into the  
Conservatory at Wilkes  
University, page 9



Exploring the  
disheartening decline of  
local newspapers, page 16



Marts Center gymnasium  
gets a new look over  
summer break, page 19

# News

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

## Student Government notes: Sept. 6 weekly meeting

By Zach Paraway  
Contributing Writer

Aug. 30 marked the first student government meeting for the 2023-2024 school year. They opened with a student government fund of \$71,528.74.

The first piece of business for the school year was from William LePore, who provided an update for the alumni festivities of homecoming weekend. Activities have been planned for each day, starting Sept. 29, with the welcoming table and flashback event. The event is to welcome the alumni back to campus. Other events planned for the weekend include giveaways, a tent during Saturday's football game and a Saturday "fun day".

The African Cultural Association sought reactivation as a club. The presentation was given by junior business major, Kobina Otoo. The Wilkes African Cultural Association was established in 2017, but had

disbanded due to COVID. The club mission is to promote African culture in an enjoyable and entertaining manner.

They continued to explain what ideas and events they would present as a club with ideas such as African takeover day, bake sales and more ideas to promote the education of African culture to the public. This would be

week one of two and will be back next week to receive an official vote

The third and final order of new business was a new club recognition. The Chess Club has been operating for a year now on its own but would like to be fully recognized as a student

club. The club plans to use the money received for a new chess set and to help fundraising efforts.

They also explained community service ideas including teaching high school students the game, holding tournaments and participating in school events such as Big Event.

The last piece of business was internal and was an update

to the constitution for members of SG. Updated items include new service hours, a change in academic requirements and a change in the chain of command in case of an absence.

SG will meet again on Sept. 13.



## Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

### Family Day 2023

Family Day will take place on Saturday, Sept. 16. To find the schedule of events and to register visit <https://www.wilkes.edu/familyday>.

Online registration will close until Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 12 p.m. If you have any questions or would like to register by phone/email, please call (570) 408-4645 or email [familyday@wilkes.edu](mailto:familyday@wilkes.edu).

### College of Business and Engineering Career and Internship Fair

The College of Business and Engineering is hosting a career and

internship fair on Tuesday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This fair is open to all students interested in working in the business, engineering and technology fields. Over 30 companies have already registered with more anticipated to come. Register to attend on Handshake.

Contact Carol Bosack for more information or questions at [carol.bosack@wilkes.edu](mailto:carol.bosack@wilkes.edu).

### Scholarship Opportunity for Students of Polish Descent

The Polish Room Committee Scholarship (\$3,000 top award) welcomes applications from Luzerne County residents. To be considered, applicants must write a brief description of their Polish heritage and what that heritage means to them. This letter must

be submitted, along with the applicant's name, WIN and contact information to Allison Naumann, Alumni House.

Applications can be emailed to [allison.naumann@wilkes.edu](mailto:allison.naumann@wilkes.edu) with the subject line "Polish Heritage Scholarships."

Deadline for applications is Oct. 13 at 4:30 p.m.

### Leadership Collegiate

This six-week, virtual course consists of online modules that provide current college students who are aspiring leaders with an innovative and flexible online learning experience. Participants work on weekly course content at their own pace.

The deadline for applications is Friday, Sept. 22. Use this link to apply: <https://www.leadershiplackawanna.com/leadership-collegiate-1>.

### Table of Contents

News.....	2
Life, A&E.....	7
Opinion.....	14
Sports.....	19

### Upcoming Events: 2023 Fall Semester

#### September

14 - Minute to Win it  
21 - Cooking Class  
24 - Paintball at Skirmish  
28 - Programming Board giveaway

#### October

5 - Hoedown Throwdown  
8 - Statue of Liberty Boat Tour NYC  
12-15 - Fall Break  
19 - Couch Potato  
23-27 - Freak Week  
28 - Dorney Haunted Park----

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: [Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu)

# Eugene S. Farley Library unveils its renovated Alden Learning Commons & Commuter Lounge

By **Amanda Montgomery**  
News Editor

The Eugene S. Farley Library received renovations to its Alden Learning Commons, also referred to as the lower level, 24/7 floor.

The extensive makeover to the Learning Commons includes new carpeting, furniture, paintwork and computer facilities.

Additional renovations include new tables and chairs to the student study rooms on the lower level, 24/7 floor, an increase in space with new tables in the study cubbies on the 24/7 floor and an update in all computers within the library.

The library administration thanked Student Government and the campus Facilities for their pivotal role in this renovation.

In addition to the enhancements, the university also introduced the newly established Commuter Lounge on the lower

level floor. The lounge had previously been on the second floor of the Student Union Building (SUB). The space offers a convenient space for commuter students to study and relax. Commuter students can swipe their student ID to access the space.

The library encourages all members of the campus community to take advantage of the recent developments, which were designed to foster an enriched learning environment and sense of belonging.

The library is open from 8 a.m. to midnight from Monday through Thursday; and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays. On weekends, the library is open on Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, from 3 to 11 p.m.

The library's basement is accessible after hours from the South Street WIN card entrance and from the main entrance during regular library open hours.

*More photos, Page 4*



(above) The Eugene S. Farley Library welcomes students to the newly renovated basement.



Photos: The Beacon/Amanda Montgomery

(above) The tables and chairs in the private computer cubby sections have been upgraded to provide greater comfort in the Alden Learning Commons.

(at right) Students can request up to two hours in the renovated private study rooms; sign up at the front desk.



...continued from Page 3



The commuter lounge has relocated from the second floor of the Sub to the basement of the library. Students can swipe their student ID to gain access.



The couches in the study cubbies were upgraded, along with the addition of new tables and an increase in space.

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## We're Looking For Writers!

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If you are interested, contact Kalen Churcher at [kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu](mailto:kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu)  
or Morgan Rich at [morgan.rich@wilkes.edu](mailto:morgan.rich@wilkes.edu)



# Cupboards, closets and care: On-campus resources

By Morgan Steiner  
Contributing Writer

There are some on-campus resources that virtually everyone knows about.

For example, most students know that Passan Hall houses the counseling and health centers. However, there are plenty of resources on campus that even seniors may not know about. Two of these resources are tucked away in the back of the Career Center and are known as the Colonel Closet and the Colonel Cupboard.

Catie Becker, the director of civic engagement, explains that the Colonel Cupboard is "...an on-campus food pantry that offers grocery items, refrigerated and frozen items and grab and go snacks."

The food comes from the CEO Food Bank in Pittston. The produce pop ups that appear several times a semester in the Student Union Building (SUB) concourse are supplied and hosted by the Colonel Cupboard.

Ada Soriano, a P1 pharmacy student and Bonner Leader, explained, "the produce pop-up is a Bonner Leader project hosted by the Colonel's Cupboard...Bonner Leaders assist in handing out the produce."

Located near the Cupboard is the Colonel Closet.

The director of career services, Carol Bosack, explained that "the Colonel Career Closet provides business casual and business professional clothes that students may take and keep, as needed, for interviews, career fairs or dressing business casual for an internship or job."

Students can find blazers, slacks, button-ups and anything they might need for a job interview or their first internship.

"It allows students to get groceries for free and not have to worry about when they can have another meal or whether or not they can go to this interview because of their clothing," said Edweana Alexis, junior political science and communication studies major. The cupboard and the closet provide a bridge and lessen the stress on a student that is struggling."

Students' academic performance may

be hindered when they are preoccupied with concerns about their next meal. Based on a 2021 survey, it is projected that food insecurity will impact one out of every three college students in Pennsylvania during their undergraduate studies. The ability to buy new, business-professional attire is not financially feasible for all students.

For those lacking transportation options, visiting the Salvation Army or a thrift store can be unattainable. The convenience of having these essentials readily available outside the SUB is a notable advantage.

"I have utilized both services," said Soriano. "Although many people know about the produce pop-up, many do not know that there is an option at the cupboard to order online and have your food order dropped off at the post office. It is very convenient when you do not have the time to stop by and look for what you need in person."

Students do not have to meet any requirements to utilize these services. They are free and available for all students, regardless of financial aid status or meal plans.

"Many students are full-time college students, and full-time college students do not have a job," said Alexis. "With them not having a job comes the aspect of money and groceries are expensive. I believe things like the Cupboard or the Closet are important because groceries are expensive and college kids do not have a lot of money to purchase \$200 or \$300 worth of groceries every two weeks."

The Colonel Cupboard and Closet are housed in the Career Center, outside the Henry Student Center. Students can enter through the main doors and walk to the back, or enter through the door located along the sidewalk adjacent to the parking lot. Both are on the first floor, so there are no accessibility concerns. All students need is their student ID and a bag to carry their food.

"My school offered something small like this, primarily for dry goods and snacks," said Becker. "The treats once in a while were nice but it would have been awesome to have something more reliable, especially for those times

between paychecks."

There is a Google form students fill out to order their groceries from the Cupboard. The Colonel Closet is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and the Colonel Cupboard is open from 9

a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. Produce pop-ups will be held regularly throughout the semester, on Sept. 13, Oct. 18 and Nov. 29 during club hours in the first floor of the SUB.



**TOP: The Colonel's Closet offers a wide variety of business and business-casual items, including suits, shoes, and even jewelry.**



**The inside of the Colonel's Cupboard, where each drawer and shelf are filled and labeled with free food and supplies.**

Photos Courtesy of Morgan Steiner

# PROGRAMMING BOARD'S FALL EVENTS

9/14 Minute to Win It

9/21 Cooking Class

9/28 Giveaway

10/5 Hoedown Throwdown

10/19 Couch Potato

10/23-27 Freak Week

11/2 Silent Disco

11/9 Giveaway

11/16 Fast Food BINGO

11/30 Break-FEST

12/7 BINGO

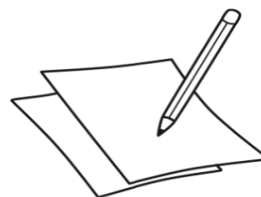
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If you are interested, contact Kalen Churcher at [kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu](mailto:kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu)  
or Morgan Rich at [morgan.rich@wilkes.edu](mailto:morgan.rich@wilkes.edu)



# Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor: [Zara.lantzman@wilkes.edu](mailto:Zara.lantzman@wilkes.edu)

## “The One Rose:” Sordoni Art Gallery’s Latest Exhibit

By **Anthony Cazun**

*Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor*

“The One Rose: The Life and Legacy of Rose O’Neill” is the latest edition to the Sordoni Art Gallery, functioning as a celebration of the work created by the multi-talented illustrator and writer, Rose O’Neill.

While famously the creator of the iconic kewpie characters, which would become so popular they would grow a life of their own, O’Neill had a much broader array of work, stylings and messages.

During the celebration of the Sordoni Art Gallery’s 50th anniversary, the latest exhibit seeks to show off O’Neill’s iconic art, but also display her diverse and more unknown body of work.

Hailing from Wilkes-Barre, O’Neill was born in the summer of 1874 and had an interest in various forms of art from early

childhood. She began creating illustrations for various newspapers and magazines in her teens, then moved to New York to expand her professional career. In New York she joined a publication titled “Truth,” it is there that she created the first comic strip to be published by a woman.

“She could do things that at the time women could not,” said senior digital design and media Arts major Erika Tomes. “She carved her own path in a world made by and for men. Even in the modern world it’s incredible to think about how she was able to do that. The idea of breaking through that barrier, doing what you think you could not do.”

O’Neill was an avid proponent of fighting inequality and advocating for women’s rights, becoming a key figure in breaking women into the art scene. She actively promoted the artwork of other women, often worked with women, notably her

sister Callista O’Neill, and often weaved women’s suffrage and discrimination messages into her work.

Once she garnered more popularity and prestige, she began to work more independently. In 1909, O’Neill would debut her newest and most well known creation, “The Kewpie.”

Kewpies are almost angel-like illustrations of rosy-cheeked children that became very popular in the early 1900’s, appearing in comic strips, posters and most famously, as dolls. The name “Kewpie” is derived from Cupid, the Roman god of love and desire. Kewpie’s are genderless and share a similar physiology to common interpretations of the Roman god.

O’Neill famously claimed that the design for kewpie’s came to her in a dream. O’Neill explained that the main idea of “The Kewpies” is to be cute beings from Kewpieville that do good deeds in a silly way.

“I think they’re adorable little creatures,” said McKenna Dolan, senior digital design and media arts major. “They bring so much light and smiles to our visitors’ faces. They always get a kick out of them.”

The gallery displays many of O’Neill’s Kewpie illustrations, as well as the iconic dolls and merchandise that accompany them. However that does not mean the gallery is lacking her other work, as the gallery aims to also present the true versatility of O’Neill’s talent.

“She’s most well known for her Kewpies but her work is so much more complex and deeper,” said Melissa Carestia, assistant director at the Sordoni Art Gallery. “She was a multifaceted person and you can see that in her work. Especially her sweet monsters work, which deserve much more praise than they get. The way that she sculpts with her line, you can see that she really models the figure and it has so much weight to it. She was working on it at the same time as the kewpies and it’s so

deep and complex by comparison.”

While O’Neill’s is highly regarded for her illustrations, her work as an author is also very important to understanding her as a person.

Her novel “The Loves of Edwy” and the illustrations that accompany it are on display as well. O’Neill’s novel is more dramatic and almost semi-biographical, as she wrote several of the characters to have many of her own qualities and experiences.

“I really love her later work that’s more androgynous and is a complete 180 from “The Kewpies,” it just shows how prolific of an artist she was and how much range she had throughout her career,” said Dolan.

Not only is O’Neill a prominent figure in Pennsylvania’s art history, but also emblematic of a shift in women’s rights and the rights of marginalized communities within both the artistic medium and the world at large. While her kewpies have taken on a life of their own, they would be nothing without the tenacity of their creator.

“I think it is interesting any time the art surpasses or outlives the artists,” said Carestia. “There are people in all kinds of subcultures getting kewpie tattoos, making unique little kewpie dolls. I think that’s the importance of art, how much it touches humanity. Of course something that is adorable and goofy is gonna resonate with people long after they disappear.”

“The One Rose: The Life and Legacy of Rose O’Neill” exhibit in the Sordoni Art Gallery will be on display until Oct. 8.

The Sordoni Art gallery will also be hosting various other events such as the Cartooning Workshop with Kevin O’Neill event and the “Whether We are Rich or Poor, We Can Love Each Other The Same” Art in Context Lecture.

The gallery’s doors are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon through 5 p.m. on Saturdays.



The Beacon/Anthony Cazun

**An example of O’Neill’s kewpies currently on display at the Sordoni Art Gallery.**

# Going Clubbing

**By Anthony Cazun**

*Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor*

As Wilkes University's annual club day came and went, many clubs were vying for the attention of students both new and old.

However, there was one club that may have stood out to those that seek an outlet for their artistic side. Studio 20 is a student run production club that particularly focuses on design, collaboration and provides real life experience to students of every major and skill level.

Studio 20's focus is primarily digital. The club seeks to provide graphics, logos, layouts, social media advertising and more to various clients, clubs and events.

The club focuses on expanding student's portfolios and gives students all kinds of experience in the realm of design and the more diplomatic aspect of it.

"Studio 20 is a student-run production club that does creative work for both on and off-campus clients at no charge," said assistant professor of digital design and media art, Lisa Reynolds. "In recent years, student teams have completed branding

projects for area businesses and non-profits, photo shoots, website designs and social media content. "It is for people who appreciate and celebrate design in any medium."

The studio has a strong focus on collaboration, both internally and externally. Internally, Studio 20 designers may help each other with a task or ask each other for pointers, opinions, edits, a different perspective and more.

"Even if someone is not experienced enough to work on a design job, there are a ton of roles associated with the club that students can work on as they grow their skill set," said Reynolds.

Externally, collaborations also come in the form of working with ad agencies, marketing departments, galleries and other clubs or event organizers. A group may be seeking out a graphic or poster for an upcoming event they are aiming to promote, and they will work closely with designers to make that idea come to life.

There is especially a lot of crossover between clubs within the digital design and media arts umbrella, meaning those with interest in working on projects for something video game related or even some light photography will be encouraged to create.

"There is game design, so esports just started this year and I know that we plan on doing collabs with them," said Kyra Britzky, digital design and media arts junior and Studio 20 historian. "It would be great to get both of our names out there by working with them and growing together."

Studio 20 encourages those of all ability levels to join, no matter how experienced or inexperienced with programs or specific techniques they may be. All it takes is some interest and the willingness to learn. Art and design is not fixed, there is always something new to explore, and an ability to sharpen. Designers want to learn, teach and create.

"A lot of people think they need to be in the digital design and media arts

major or have big art skills, but no, we have opened it to everyone," said Studio 20 president and senior digital design and media arts major Maggie McHenry. "We will teach you how to use the programs and different techniques, so anyone is welcome to join."

Studio 20 welcomes students of every major. Students that are not specifically within the digital design and media arts major will expand the accessibility and allow for various types of perspectives and talents.

"The club used to be solely DDMA majors, but I feel like opening up the club to people interested in it that aren't majoring would be a good opportunity to have new people," said Britzky. "We are doing the workshops, too, which would make new people want to come in more."

Studio 20 meets twice a week in Breiseth 020. Tuesday's are primarily for members working on design projects, while Thursday's are for all club members.

Graphic/Lara Mullen

## Club of the Week: Studio 20

**Beacon Bumps**

*Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff picks their favorite song of the week. Check out this week's bumps to the right! Our very own Zara Lantzman 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:**

I think you should - Jess Fellerman

**Amanda Montgomery, News Editor:**

Cool About It - boygenius

**Emma Broda, News Staff Writer:**

Brando - Lucy Dacus

**Zara Lantzman, LA&E Editor:**

Come Back...Be Here - Taylor Swift

**Anthony Cazun, LA&E Asst. Editor:**

Lessen The Damage - Poppy

**Cally Williams, LA&E Staff Writer:**

Lovers Rock - TV Girl

**Sydney Allabaugh, Opinion Editor:**

NO HEY LEY- Kali Uches

**"Freeze," Opinion Staff Writer:**

Carnage- prodby668

**Adam Grundt, Sports Asst. Editor:**

Dial Drunk - Noah Kahan, Post Malone

**Lara Mullen, Designer:**

Kimdracula - Deftones

**Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager:**

Rollercoaster - Bleachers



# An Inside Look into the Conservatory at Wilkes University

By Cally Williams

*Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff*

The Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts at Wilkes works to nourish and encourage performing arts of all kinds.

The Conservatory is one of the programs located in the Darte. The Conservatory consists of the Degnan Ballet Center, Indian Classical Dance, and instrumental and vocal music lessons. Music instruction includes private lessons in voice, piano, guitar, violin, viola, flute, percussion, trombone, tuba, harp, french horn, clarinet and music theory.

The Degnan Ballet Center focuses on classical ballet, with its main focus being technique. There are seven levels of ballet classes varying in difficulty along with a pre-ballet class for younger aspiring dancers.

In addition to ballet, Indian classical dance is another facet of the Conservatory. It is taught by Sujata Nair Mulloth and has been a part of the Conservatory for 20 years. There are beginner, intermediate and advanced classes offered in the fall and spring sessions.

At its founding, the Conservatory was more focused on music and musical theater rather than dance. Now, the Conservatory provides instruction in music, classical Indian dance and classical ballet, but still has the common goal of sharing the joy of performing arts with the community.

The Conservatory was established in 1988 by Jean Anastasia and Jim Harrington, while the Degnan Ballet Center was founded in 1983 by Kristin Degnan-Boonin and her late husband Peter Degnan. Degnan-Boonin and Degnan established university classes for Wilkes students, and the ballet center was later added to the Conservatory.

“It belongs here,” said Degnan-Boonin. “It felt right for the Degnan Ballet Center to be a part of the Wilkes University Conservatory,” as she and her husband had already started the university’s dance program.

She quoted renowned choreographer George Balanchine, “First a school,” when explaining why she wanted her ballet center to be a part of the university. She wanted it to be a part of the nurturing learning environment of the university.

Degnan-Boonin has been a part of the Conservatory and the Degnan Ballet Center since its inception. When talking about the Conservatory, she referred to it as “The jewel of the valley.” “It is an environment where artists of all different genres come together and collaborate. It makes us truly unique.”

She also explained how the Conservatory presents ballet in its authentic form. The art is passed down through generations, from one teacher to another, so the technique and choreography that current students are learning is the same as what dancers from hundreds of years ago studied.

“It is the one place in the valley where you can find it all. Seeing other performing artists, even just passing by in the hall, is truly inspiring,” said Degnan-Boonin. “It keeps the creative juices flowing.”

The Conservatory puts on several performances a year. These performances include an annual performance of “The Nutcracker” in December, a ballet recital in June, an Indian classical show in May and music recitals in the spring and fall.

“The Nutcracker” is an annual festive staple of the Conservatory. While many studios perform abridged versions of the famous Tchaicovsky ballet, the Conservatory at Wilkes performs the full length “Nutcracker.” Auditions for this year’s production of “The Nutcracker” will take place on Sept. 24th in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center.

Along with the “Nutcracker” on Dec. 16 and 17, the Conservatory also performs a full length ballet in June. In the summer of 2023, they staged a ballet version of the famous fairytale, “Cinderella.”

The Conservatory also hosts a summer dance intensive that is open to dancers from all over the area. This intensive program is open to any serious dancer age 11 and up. It lasts for two weeks in July and offers classes in ballet technique, jazz, yoga/pilates, pointe and pre-pointe, classical variations and modern dance.

The Conservatory is a proud aspect of Wilkes University. “It is the feather in the university’s cap,” stated Conservatory coordinator Lauren Gentilesco. The Conservatory serves not only the university but the whole Wyoming Valley community.

By sharing the gift of performing arts with students, the Conservatory is



From left, Sarah Polansky, Amelia Smicherko and Morgan Rich perform as Spanish princess in the June ballet,

continuing to grow the ballet tradition. As Degnan-Boonin stated before, dance is passed down through generations. “It is evolutionary.”

“We give students as professional a setting as possible,” stated ballet instructor Karla Kovatch. “The fact that students are prepared enough to get accepted into prestigious schools is a huge

accomplishment.”

This September marks the 40th anniversary of the Degnan Ballet Center. The university commemorates the profound impact that the Conservatory has had on its students and the whole Wilkes community. Degnan-Boonin added, “There are many fine schools, but this one is a true gem.”



From left, Morgan Rich, Amanda Merrick-Tompkins and Amelia Smicherko pose for a picture backstage as princesses in the June ballet, “Cinderella.”

Photos: The Beacon/Morgan Rich

# Writers Guild of American West stands up for its rights

By Jean Bonn

Contributing Writer

On May 1, the Writers Guild of American West, or the WGA, tweeted that their board of directors, along with the council of the Writers Guild of America East, voted unanimously to call a strike beginning May 2 at 12:01 a.m.

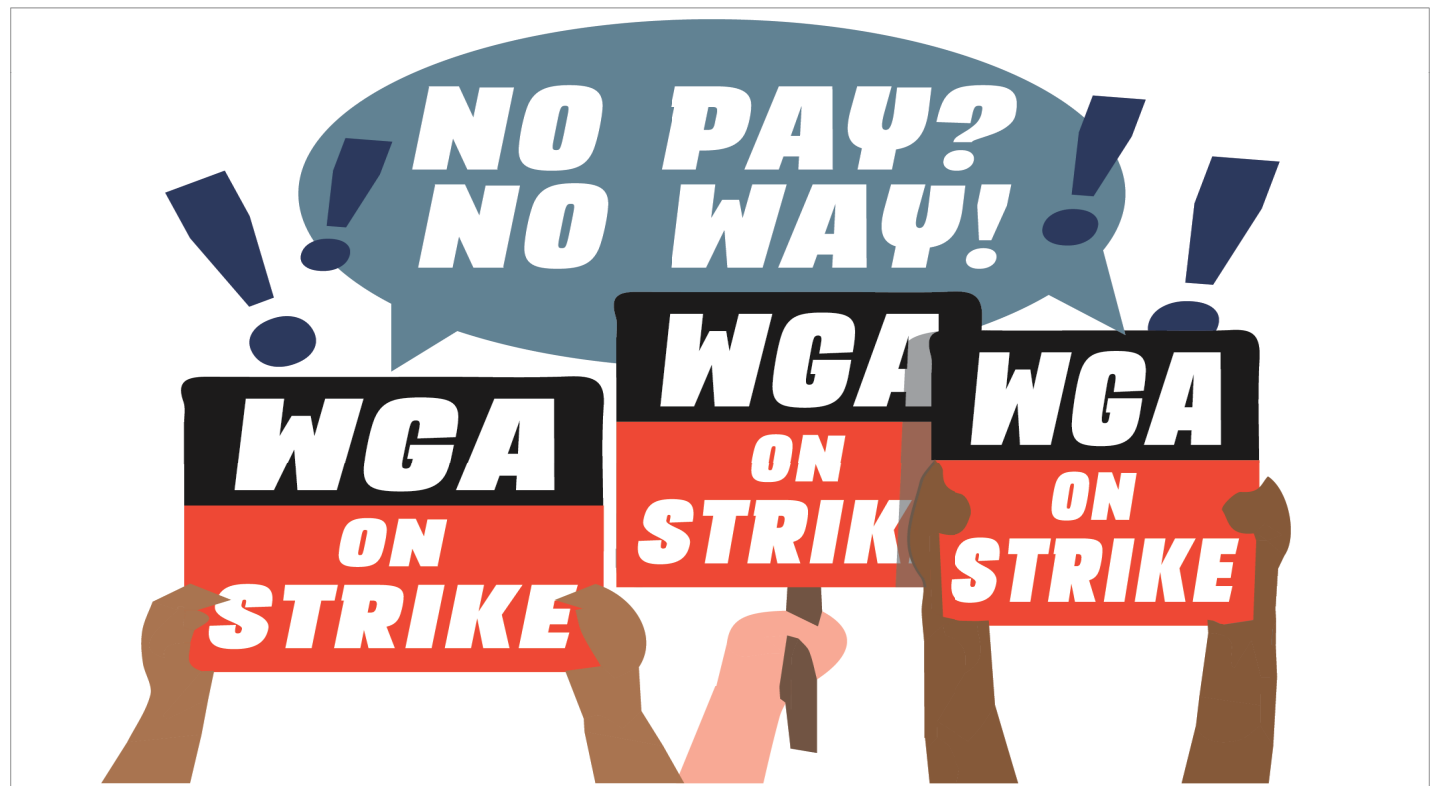
The strike came after contract negotiations between the WGA and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, or the AMPTP, went nowhere. Most of the WGA's complaints stem from issues regarding streaming series and films. Production companies have hired less writers with even less time to write scripts, and compensation for streaming series and shows are not standardized.

On top of this, the increase in artificial intelligence has the potential to decrease jobs for writers, since production companies can use the technology to write scripts as opposed to hiring writers. The WGA wanted these complaints to be corrected, but the AMPTP said that they could not fulfill their requests. In July, the Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, often referred to as SAG-AFTRA, joined the WGA and went on strike for better pay and job security.

"I think it is really sad that thousands of creative and hardworking people have to fight for months just to negotiate for fair payment and treatment," said Emma Klusmeyer, a sophomore environmental science major. "The studios are earning billions on the writers' work and they are not getting much in return."

According to their website, the Writers Guild of America West is a labor union for writers located in the western United States. The writers in their union are responsible for the scripts and production of a variety of content fans across the country view on a daily basis. Television shows, documentaries, animation, films and even videogames.

Their primary function is to ensure that the writers in the guild are provided with fair working conditions by production companies. Some of their standards for such conditions include proper pension, health benefits and basic compensation for their work. The SAG-AFTRA also strives to ensure fair working rights for artists, however they



also represent those who are in front of the camera or behind the microphone such as dancers, dj's, singers, actors and puppeteers.

Although it may seem like the strikes will only impact those in Hollywood, they have already had large impacts on programming schedules in a variety of channels. Most channels and streamers have had content saved, but viewers will most likely begin to see the strikes' impacts as we get closer to fall. Late night shows such as *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* and *Saturday Night Live* have already been placed on hiatus.

Most channels have started filling their schedules with reality television shows and reruns. Shows that are currently in production have had their release dates delayed by at least two months. Movies, on the other hand, have at least a year until the impacts become noticeable to audiences.

"Even though it is disappointing that many shows are being delayed, I do think it is for a good cause," said Madi Hudak, a sophomore environmental science major. "Many people that write and act in shows and movies make little to no profit from having their shows on streaming services like on Netflix, and that is unfair."

The most impacted people during this

strike are not the fans of television and film. Rather, they are the guild members who are currently out of work in order to make their point to production companies. As expected with any strike, the WGA has a long list of forbidden activities for their members. Some notable items on the list include writing, editing, and film festival promotion.

It should be noted that writers can technically still write scripts, just not sell them or develop them further. This means that over 11,500 writers are currently out of a job and source of income. However, California bill SB799 would potentially provide unemployment benefits to workers who have been striking for more than two weeks.

"I support the writers strike and believe it is a necessary step to ensure a better future for all writers," said Casey McNally, a sophomore pharmacy major.

Celebrities have been vigilant to promote the strike of social media, garnering the support of fans like Casey. Photos and videos of celebrities, such as Olivia Wilde, Darren Criss, and Elliot Page protesting have gone viral, increasing the public's awareness of the strike. Seeing their favorite actors and actresses on the picket line has also reminded audiences that the content

they consume on television and streaming platforms was created in part by writers, providing some encouragement to support the WGA and SAG-AFTRA.

However, not all celebrities are fully in support of the strikes. In fact, many have been called out online for posting that they support the strike yet continuing to work on projects. Some have even candidly said that they were against the strikes as a whole. Bill Maher in particular has said that he feels that writers are not owed a living while on the "Club Random" podcast.

A letter of opposition has also circulated the internet regarding the SAG-AFTRA's strike in particular. The letter was signed by George Clooney, Morgan Freeman, Tom Hanks and more than 130 other Hollywood actors and actresses.

There is no indication that the strike will end anytime soon, since the WGA and SAG-AFTRA are still negotiating with the AMPTP. The last time that the WGA had a strike was 15 years ago, which lasted 100 days. However, today's strikers have made one thing clear: they would not be stopping until their demands have been met.

Graphic/Lara Mullen

# Day Trip

## *Zany Day Trips with Zara: Jim Thorpe*

**By Zara Lantzman**

*Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor*

When you think of Wilkes University, do you ever stop to think about what fun things there are to do around the area.

Consider Jim Thorpe, a place and a person. Now we obviously cannot go see Jim Thorpe, the person, as he died in March 1953.

What you can see, however, is a quaint, active and beautiful town that shares his name.

Jim Thorpe is located in Carbon County, Pa. It is a 43 minute drive from Wilkes-Barre. Forty-three minutes and you can enjoy a whole day of fun.

If you are a spiritual person, then Jim Thorpe is right for you. In the middle of the town, there is a store called, The Emporium of Curious Goods. They have all kinds of metaphysical and religious things, along with a lot of Wiccan items.

For all you "Harry Potter" fans, Muggle's Mug is not your normal coffee shop. When you walk in you are greeted by the "Harry Potter" movies playing and decorations from the series everywhere. Even better, all their food and drink items are Harry Potter-related.

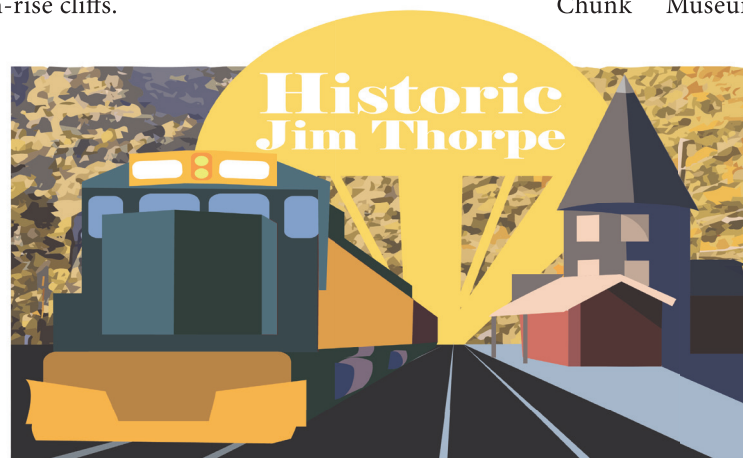
A piece of advice: Wait more than 30 minutes if you are going to get their tea, as I learned the hard way.

For fans of the wild waters, there is whitewater rafting along the Lehigh River and I highly recommend it. It was my first time rafting and it definitely was not my last.

There are all kinds of different tour groups that take you on the river. Regardless of what group or company you pick, it is a whirl of fun.

Directly next to the river is the Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway. This train ride lasts 77 minutes and starts right by the parking lot in Jim Thorpe. Tickets are \$24 for adults and \$10 for children.

The train follows the Lehigh River, and goes over bridges into Glen Onoko and Lehigh Gorge State Park. On the route, you can see wildlife, mountain scenery and high-rise cliffs.



Across the railway is an old jail, previously known as Carbon County Jail, and active from 1870-1995. The jail holds tours where you can see everything from the warden's headquarters to solitary confinement.

There is rich history at this jail as many people were hanged. There is also a rumor that you can see a handprint on the wall to this day during from one of the hangings. On top of all of that, in the fall, the jail holds ghost tours at night.

If you are a fan of looking at mansions on Zillow, then you will love this next option. On the edge of town sits one of the most beautiful homes to see: Asa

Packer Mansion.

The house was previously owned by Asa Packer, and in 1956, it was opened to the public. Packer was the owner of the Lehigh Valley Railroad and founded Lehigh University.

History buffs, this is for you. Jim Thorpe was previously called Mauch Chunk, and there is the Mauch Chunk Museum that

for tours but they can book rooms, as it is now a bed and breakfast. It is still worth seeing the outside architecture, as the popular ride, The Haunted Mansion, at Walt Disney World Resort is based off of the Harry Packer Mansion.

For people of age, Jim Thorpe is home to many wineries. Big Creek Vineyard and Wild Elder Wine and Co are only some of the wineries in the area. Wild Elder Wine and Co. is directly across the street from Muggle's Mug on Broadway Street.

The winery makes ciders, wines and even non-alcoholic beverages. They make all their wine with elderberries, hence the name. On top of all of that, they have wine tasting and even sell charcuterie boards and sandwiches.

Jim Thorpe is home to many gift shops and has unique gifts that you cannot find elsewhere. After your adrenaline pumped day, there are many food places to pick from that make you wanting more, especially the desserts.

Jim Thorpe is the perfect place to visit in the fall and I highly recommend it and would give this day trip a rating of 9/10.



*Graphics/Lara Mullen*

# Zen Night

**By Emma Broda**  
*News Staff Writer*

During the time of the year, when classes get more and more intense, something that gets overlooked is self-care. It can become easy to fall into a habit of spending too much time on jobs and schoolwork, and students may overlook their own well-being.

On Sept. 7, Programming Board offered a night for students to focus on themselves with a self-care night. Students gathered in the Henry Student Center to enjoy different self-care themed activities and food.

The event was a hit with students being drawn to the promise of a stress relieving night. Abby Malin, first-year psychology major, shared that the event seemed like a fun night to unwind and spend time with her friends.

The night of relaxation included a yoga session, painting succulent plant pots, friendship bracelet making, do-it-yourself body scrubs and a raffle for a massage gift card.



Making Body Scrubs

“My goal this year is to take more time for myself, and this seemed like the perfect thing,” said Molly Blaskiewicz, a junior marketing major.

In addition to the self-care activities, Programming Board also provided students with charcuterie boards and mocktails adorned with tiny umbrellas. Students were also able to enjoy the snacks provided and the skincare headbands that were given to them.

Zoë Morley, a sophomore biology major, said, “I think the body scrubs were a cool idea.”

For students who try to prioritize self-care, school can be exhausting and attending events like self-care night is a perfect way to alleviate stress. Some students found that although they regularly take time to themselves, events with a focus on self-care can still be beneficial.

Logan Colonna, a sophomore marketing major, said that he considers self-care a way to better himself, and personally enjoyed the mocktails, specifically the strawberry daiquiris.

The night ended with students going home with the crafts they made, a multitude of skincare products and more so that they could be relaxed to continue on with the semester.

Yoga  
SessionPlant Pot  
Painting

Event Photo



# Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact opinion editor: [Sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu](mailto:Sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu).

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## Our Voice

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

# Stop making remakes of original movies

Has the movie industry fallen into the ravenous hands of Hollywood's money-hungry directors and producers? Movie remakes within Hollywood have seemingly turned the corner from being possible blockbusters to falling into a black hole of unoriginality.

The United States' film industry has been incredibly successful and has thrived rapidly since the 1900s. However, with theaters being filled with remakes, reboots, and sequels, are we beginning to see the industry's downfall and lack of creativity?

According to *tjToday*, movies depend on a new evolution of ideas, and techniques, however, when the same ideas are utilized over and over again, it can cause this change to stand still. When directors and producers remake and reboot different past stories, the outcome will generally be a more generic counterpart and will rarely bring anything new to the table.

A huge problem with movie remakes is that the directors attempt to recreate the same emotions and feelings that the original creator had in mind and created within their audience. The truth of the matter is that a remake will never be able to evoke the same emotions and feelings

the audience felt the first time around. This is particularly true when it comes to recreations of classic movies, especially when the original creator of the movie may no longer be alive to collaborate on the remake.

Casumo, a betting website, conducted a study with the search engine optimization firm Verve Search in which they standardized IMDb and Metacritic scores to compare different ratings and profits of recent movie remakes.

The results ended up being not-so-great for remakes with 91 percent scoring lower with audiences than the originals. The *Washington Post* also pointed out during this study that only 21 percent of these movies were more profitable.

Most of the time, there is no point in remaking movies because of the fact that some originals were not made all that long ago. For example, The Walt Disney Company released their animated hit film, "Moana," in 2016 and has already announced that they are in the process of producing a live-action remake of the film.

A bad remake or reboot of a movie can have a negative lasting legacy, as well. If a movie is remade unsuccessfully or lacks

creativity, this can cause a negative view of the original film and affect how people view the original.

However, if people hate these remakes so much, why on earth is Hollywood still producing them at an outstanding rate?

According to *Vice*, remakes of movies still pay off even if they do not beat the original because "there is profit and pleasure to be had in the familiar." Nostalgia might make people believe that the original is better, however, that is the factor that makes them see the remake anyway. Nostalgia is what drives the views.

It feels as if Hollywood is creating these remakes and reboots to earn a quick buck instead of paying attention to its audience and creating a quality film. It feels as if the original films they created are being exploited for money instead of being recreated for enjoyment.

The Internet Movie Database states that Hollywood consistently investing in these remakes, reboots and sequels will eventually lead to their decline.

If remakes of movies do not stop, these films will destroy Hollywood's creativity and creative processes, which will lead to the film industry's eventual downfall.

**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 reason you need to play single-player games

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

Do you feel that video games are not for you? Or maybe you play them, but you do not find them interesting? Or worse, you have enjoyed games in the past, and you cannot put down the controller despite it being boring?

Not to worry, this is a common phenomenon known as “Gamer’s Block” and it plagues society by the thousands everyday. However, it is not a disease that is incurable. In fact, the solution to this problem is simple.

Most players enjoy gaming with their friends and that is usually how it starts. A player will enjoy a game enough to play on their own, but soon they face major drawbacks which are caused by queuing into a game’s online player base.

This is an atmosphere that is cruel and destructive towards gamers because it involves unfiltered internet toxicity and imbalance in skill between players. There are players who spend their entire lives playing a single game, such as “League of Legends” and “CS:GO,” and the large skill disparity between players ruins the experience.

These issues are the tip of the iceberg.

The fact is, playing a competitive game in-person is usually a much healthier experience than playing online. For example, “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate” is greatly enhanced when you can be face-to-face with your opponent on the same console without relying on the quality of your connection.

The real problem with your block is that you are playing the wrong type of game in the first place. Competitive and online-based games are causing the troubles. People no longer enjoy playing because other people are better than they are at “Street Fighter” and do not give them a chance to show off the new combo that they learned or to test out a new skin or gun that they unlocked in “Valorant.” Therefore, the solution to the problem is to drop these games altogether.

“What? How can I drop every game I play? What do I play then?”

Exactly. Try picking up a game that features a story mode or campaign for single players. You will soon learn the value in gaming is to appreciate the game and not

hate on the players.

Not only are single-player games very engaging, but players can rely on learning and skill rather than the amount of time they spend playing the game. These types of games allow players the flexibility to be creative and play how they want.

One of the most revolutionary single-player games in the modern day is “The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom,” which has created a very wholesome community of highly skilled, artistic players and allowed them to unleash their creativity in an open-world setting with unique mechanics for building and fighting. Players in fan bases such as “Tears of the Kingdom” get together to celebrate a common game that they all enjoy, rather than destroying each other’s ego with unnecessary disrespect.

Of course, the single-player genre includes games for everyone.

FromSoftware is a famous company known for featuring its highly strategic form of combat in games such as “Elden Ring” and “Sekiro.” These games also include boss fights that allow players to test out various strategies and become skilled with patterns and techniques. Some players prefer to be the boss themselves, such as in “Doom,” the action-packed shooter where the main character is a demon-slaughtering machine.

There are also loads of Indie titles that all feature intriguing stories and mechanics. My personal favorites are “Hollow Knight,” “Castle Crashers,” “N++” and “Superliminal.”

The lesson here is that single-player games, despite what gamers might try to convince you, are much more diverse, immersive and simply playable. The effort that goes into these games is much greater than the cookie cutter competitive games.

Nobody can judge or insult you for how you play, and instead of spending a fortune on peripherals, you can direct those funds to buying more high-quality video games. Most importantly, these games offer the spark of creativity and enjoyment that you, a bored, helpless player, are probably looking for.

# The Return of The Red Raven: An original story

By Leah Smith

Contributing Writer

Murder! Mystery! Action! Justice! Those were the four words that lived in Rick Greenblatt’s head even after 37 years of hearing them blared out onto television screens around the world. Those were the days where he thought he was above it all. Once, a wild young actor who starred in the biggest superhero mystery show of the 80s. Now, an old department store cashier.

“Does this lamp work with my coupon?” a man with a blond receding hairline asked.

Rick grabbed the coupon from the man’s pale hand and held it up closely to his face. He adjusted his glasses and read the coupon carefully. It was a 20 percent off home decor and appliance coupon.

“Yes, sir. It works,” Rick answered in a bored voice.

“Can you apply that to my order?” the customer asked.

Rick grumbled, “Yeah.”

He scanned the lamp and cereal boxes that were laid out on the checkout counter. The man took out his card and swiped to pay the \$32.64 that flashed on the small blue screen.

The man grabbed his bag and shouted, “Have a nice day, sir!”

Rick rolled his eyes and weakly waved at him. He rested one fist against his face and snagged his phone from his jean pocket with the other. He noticed that he had five minutes left of his nine hour shift. His eyes lit up and nearly tripped as he was exiting the checkout area.

He grabbed his car keys from his pocket and started going through the clock-out process on his phone. He pressed the red clock button to clock out of his shift and walked swiftly to the parking lot.

He drove off in his black Subaru Impreza and arrived at his small brown house that resided 15 minutes away from his job. He turned off the ignition, walked out of the car and opened the front door. Cameron, his husband, stood right in front of Rick which caught him off guard.

“Jeez! You nearly gave me a heart attack!” Rick yelled.

Cameron folded his arms and frowned, “You didn’t see the message I sent you?”

Rick turned his phone on and did not even notice that Cameron sent him a message two hours ago. Cameron shook his head in disbelief as he walked past the entrance and into the kitchen.

“I was swamped at work,” Rick said as he passed a giant poster of himself in a red hat, mask and cape.

“I understand that, but what about on your break? You couldn’t say anything about one of your old friends passing away?” Cameron asked.

“Honestly, me and Teddy weren’t really that close. He was kind of annoying on set and acted like a brat,” Rick stated.

“I guess he got it from you,” Cameron said without thinking.

Rick stared at him blankly, “What?”

“All you ever care about is your time as ‘The Red Raven’ and how great it was to be the leading man, but news flash, that show has been over for decades! You’re a more than 50-year-old man who works a dull day job and is a part of the people. I thought that you were going to change.”

“That you would wake up in reality and realize that maybe being a part of the people can be a good thing. But now I see that you never left the spotlight,” Cameron explained.

He began walking out the front door but Rick chased after him.

“Where are you going?” Rick asked, helplessly, gripping onto his arm.

“I just need some time in reality, Rick. Something that you should do more often,” Cameron answered.

Rick let go of Cameron, and the door slammed right in his face. Tears began rolling down his face as he stood at the door, hoping he would come back. Five minutes later, Rick retreated to the living room and grabbed the newspaper from his couch.

The headline was in red and said, “Murder! Mystery! Action! Justice? Teddy Flowers, TV star, dies horrifically!” Those words began to haunt Rick’s mind once again as his eyes glossed through the story. He stopped in the middle of the description.

Teddy was bludgeoned with a wooden square block with the letter “A” painted on it. This was how a character died in “The Red Raven.” Could it just be a coincidence?

*To be continued...*

# Exploring the disheartening decline of local newspapers

## *Why small newspapers cannot be replaced*

**By Sydney Allabaugh**  
Opinion Editor

The days of newspapers as we have known them may be limited as more and more people ditch print and rely on digital platforms for news. Although television news and social media are useful, they cannot fill the void local newspapers are starting to leave behind.

Newspapers have been struggling to compete with digital and TV news for quite some time. According to a Pew Research Center survey, only 5 percent of Americans prefer to get their news from newspapers compared to the 52 percent who prefer digital platforms and the 35 percent who prefer TV news.

One reason for this is that digital news sources may be more convenient and cost-effective as many online publications and social media sources offer free articles, whereas newspapers charge a subscription fee for print copies. People are less willing to pay for a service they can find elsewhere more conveniently and for free.

Since bigger audiences are more interested in getting their news from digital platforms and TV, advertisers are more interested in purchasing online and TV ads instead of newspaper advertisements. Newspapers are losing both advertising and subscription revenue, causing a decline in the newspaper industry.

This decline in revenue has led to small local newspapers cutting staff, consolidating or shutting down entirely. According to Pew Research Center, employment in local newspapers has dramatically declined from 74,410 employees in 2006 to 30,820 in 2020.

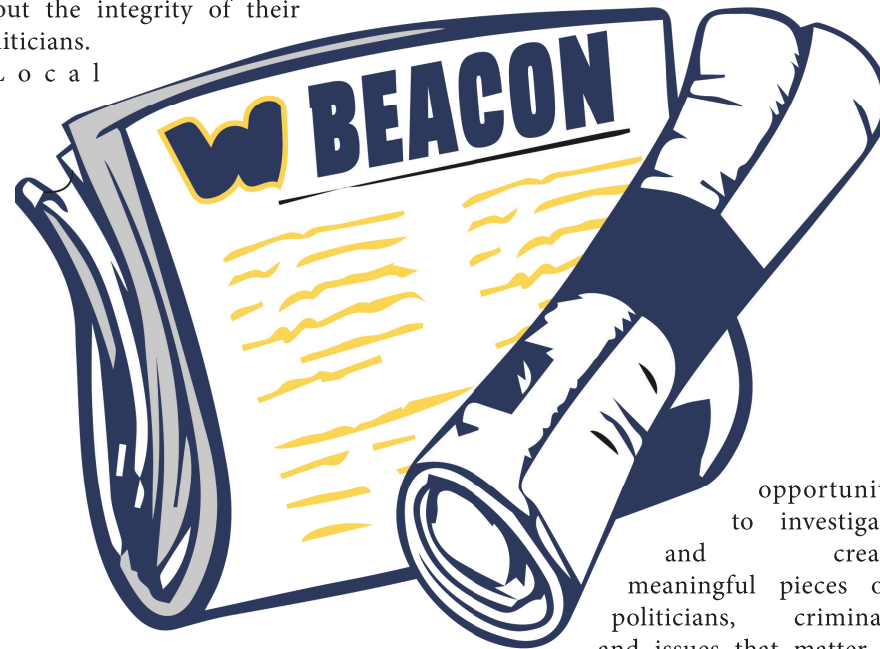
Just in the past three years, 360 newspapers have shut down in the United States, most of which were small dailies. Other small independent papers within a certain region are being bought out by large media companies and merged into a regional paper. When local newspapers are closing and consolidating and the number of newspaper employees is dwindling, we miss out on the unique,

localized coverage local newspapers have provided throughout the years.

When local newspapers were in their prime, they were able to provide the local community a service through investigative journalism on a small scale.

Years ago, there were enough journalists to act as watchdogs and cover all local government meetings to ensure that corruption was exposed. Now with limited staff covering vast areas, many are forced to pick and choose which meetings they can attend, which leads to constituents remaining less informed about the integrity of their politicians.

L o c a l



investigative journalists were also given the time and opportunity to investigate suspicious cases and bring the truth to the light. In some cases, journalists brought down criminals before police could.

Within our community, former Citizens' Voice reporter, Carol Crane, continued to investigate the murder of Robert Curley when law enforcement seemed to give up on the case and assisted in finding the killer who was his wife, Joann Curley. Former Patriot-News reporter Sara Ganim also broke the story involving Jerry Sandusky's sexual abuse of young boys.

Another investigative journalist, Julie K. Brown, assisted in creating major

developments in the Jeffrey Epstein case by exposing secret plea deals and platforming accusers in daily paper the Miami Herald.

"A lot of other local journalists aren't given the luxury of the time I had with this, even though they are the last line of defense against corruption, against taxpayer money being wasted," Brown said in an interview with The New York Times. "This has helped the public see we're not the enemy of the people."

As Brown mentioned, having an

opportunity to investigate and create meaningful pieces on politicians, criminals and issues that matter is something many journalists do not have anymore. A future in which a small number of remaining professional journalists only have time to cover a select few major stories increases the possibility that corruption and wrongdoings may never be brought to light.

Investigative journalism, like Brown mentioned, aids in creating a trusting relationship between the media and the people. Rebuilding these relationships is much needed currently as roughly two-thirds of Americans have little to no trust or confidence in newspapers, TV and radio, according to a Gallup poll.

Besides investigative work and watchdog journalism, local newspapers

also provide important information about small towns and the residents that live within them. In small town dailies, it's common to see articles about the high school sports teams, obituaries of local residents and stories about local businesses.

If newspapers continue to lay off staff, close their doors and consolidate into regional papers, we will see small town residents less and less to make room for the major stories within the region. This prevents us from remaining informed of and connected with the fellow people within our community.

Although some may argue that this type of content can easily be replicated online, I would argue that in-depth coverage of these local topics is unique to newspaper journalists. TV and online news commonly do not go into the same amount of depth as newspapers and cover regional or even statewide and national stories instead of local ones.

Luckily, we have yet to see local news disappear in our community. Wilkes-Barre is one of the last small cities with two independent newspapers: The Times Leader and The Citizens' Voice. Recently, however, The Citizens' Voice, along with other papers within our region including The Times-Tribune, the Republican Herald and The Standard-Speaker, have been purchased by one of the largest media groups in the country MediaNews Group, according to WVIA.

Since this purchase is still recent, we do not know how new ownership will change news coverage within our local community, but hopefully, our local papers will still be able to produce localized content.

As time goes on, it will be interesting to see the fate of small town newspapers. Trends show that they will continue to close their doors and dwindle in staff numbers, making them limited in what they can cover. This is a shame as local newspapers offer unique services, whether it be local coverage or investigative journalism, that ensure our local communities remain informed.

Graphic/Lara Mullen



# Why “The Eras Tour: Concert Film” is the moment

By **Samara Carey**  
Contributing Writer

Anybody who is anybody knows how huge and in-the-moment Taylor Swift is right now. Even if you are not a fan of her, I can almost guarantee that you can name at least a dozen songs, whether they were released in 2006 more in the present day.

This summer, Swift took North America by storm with her debut of “The Eras Tour,” a three-hour-long concert that uniquely displays each of her 10 albums and plays her biggest hits from each era. That said, it is no surprise that many Gen Z and millennials took this idea and ran with it.

It blew up so much that tickets sold out even prior to the general sale being announced. As a result of this, tickets became impossible to get and scammers and resellers were in full swing to make a quick buck off a “Swiftie” who was desperate to see their favorite singer live in concert.

To make light of a very disheartening situation, Swifties across the country decided to take matters into their own hands and make various activities to help those who were not able to get tickets.

One fan on X, formerly known as Twitter, decided to make their own version of fantasy football and called it Swiftball. Swiftball was used during each show in which fans would try to predict Swift’s outfits, her surprise songs, special guests and different mishaps that would happen during each night.

Another tradition that started this summer were the nightly live streams produced by fans inside the stadium for those watching from the outside.

Lastly, fans who were not able to purchase tickets for their hometown shows started an event labeled “Taylorgating,” a spin on tailgating, in which they would trade friendship bracelets, buy tour merch and listen to the concert outside the stadium despite not being able to fully experience the actual show.

As the North American leg of the tour ends, Swift recently announced an “Eras

Tour” movie, in which fans can watch a recording of the full show, in an AMC theater of their choice. Swift has always released live recordings of each of her tours, except for “The Red Tour” due to it having a problematic director, but this has proven to be different than others.

In years past, Swift’s tour documentaries have been released on either iTunes or Apple Music to later be released on YouTube after a few months

thus far, I would like to share that I have been known as “The Taylor Swift Girl,” since my early adolescence. I have seen Taylor twice on her past tours, and I have participated in every activity listed above, as I fell victim to becoming one of the people who were unfortunate enough to not see Swift on her recent tour.

I have adored Taylor for years and will always defend her and her

West’s character, she was viewed as a “snake” and was forced to go into hiding for three years.

After the Kayne West fiasco, Swift has stated multiple times that she felt like her career was over and that she feared no one would pay attention to her in a few years, so she was holding onto her career as close as possible.

That was until the pandemic hit and Swift released her eighth studio album, “folklore.” After this release, Swift’s career blew up faster than we were able to blink. Her songs, old and new, were trending on TikTok, and everyone became obsessed with loving Taylor Swift.

What Swift did next was quite possibly the best move she would ever make in her career. In 2021, Swift started re-recording and releasing her first six albums. Of course, she had no choice in doing so since she had her masters stolen from her, but this fortunately brought a new and fresh crowd to her music.

Since she had her own versions of her album, people were patiently waiting to see her next move, especially since she had announced her tenth studio album, “Midnights.”

Hence, her announcement of her long-awaited Eras Tour.

Since the hype around it was so heavily anticipated, Swift’s career was at an all-time high, even after she predicted her slow decline in the music industry.

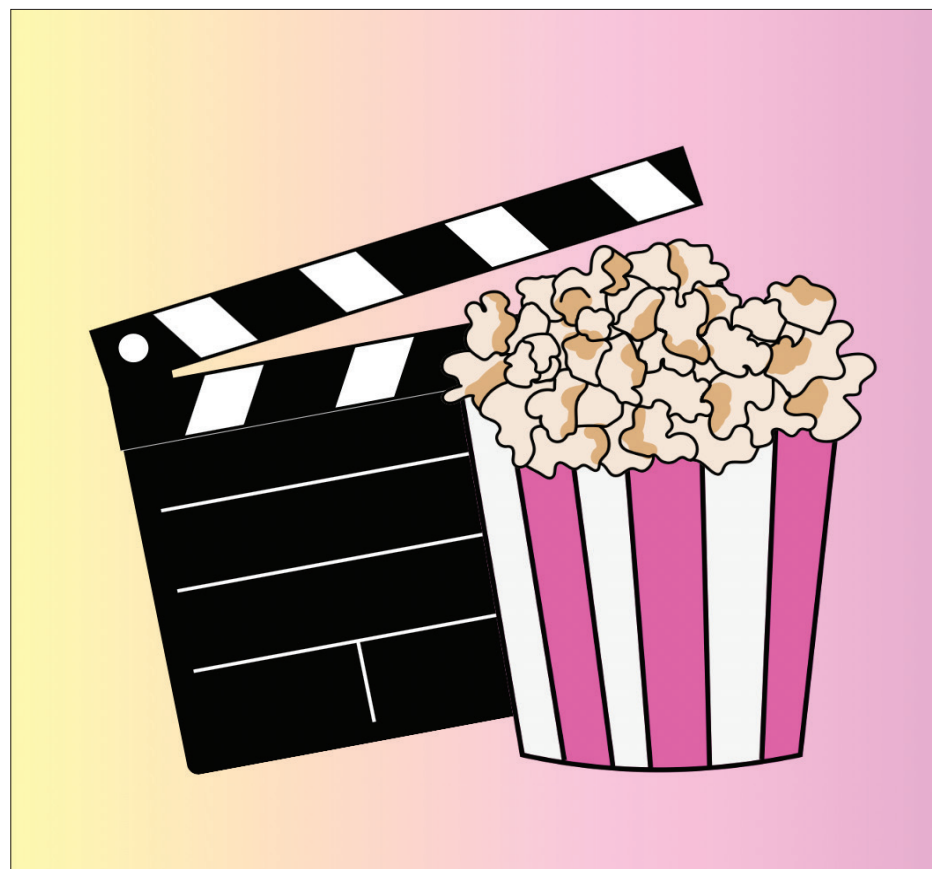
So, Swift did what any reasonable business person would do, and held on to every ounce of fame she was receiving. This was proven true after “The Eras Tour” movie was announced and box offices had the highest number of sales they have seen since “Spiderman, No Way Home.”

This proves that Taylor Swift’s fame will forever be growing, and she will forever be in the music industry and has subsequently changed it for the better.

“The Eras Tour” movie comes out on Oct. 13, and thousands of people have already bought their tickets a month in advance.

I will be there.

Will I see you?



Graphic/Sydney Allabaugh  
business decisions. Especially now, as I better understand the ins and outs of marketing and why her team has her doing the promotions she has been doing. One thing about Swift that you absolutely cannot argue with me about is how calculated she is.

She has been in the music industry since she was 16-years-old and has been criticized since the first time she stepped on stage. One example of this is when she almost got her career completely ripped from her hands by Kayne West and Kim Kardashian back in 2016. Due to claims Swift lied about

of it being released. The last tour, “The Reputation Stadium Tour,” was released on Netflix and it can be watched if you have a subscription.

Many will argue that this is simply a cash grab by Swift and her management to help promote the latest re-recording of her fifth studio album, “1989.” I would like to disagree and comment on the fact that this is definitely one of the smartest moves that she could have made now.

Before I continue, if you are wondering why I feel qualified enough to discuss Taylor Swift and her career

# The rise and fall of streaming services

## *The frustrating ways streaming has changed media consumption*

**By Shawn Carey**  
Contributing Writer

We live in an age of constant media consumption.

According to a recent Nielsen report, Americans spend over 11 hours, or nearly half of their day, interacting with digital media. This includes everything from television, movies, games, books, podcasts and music. More often than not, these pieces of entertainment are enjoyed through streaming services.

I am sure it is hard for a lot of us to imagine a time before streaming. Being able to watch our favorite shows and movies at the click of a button is not really

something we stop and think about. Nowadays, it is just a natural part of everyday life.

However, this was not always the case.

Before the turn of the millennium, it took quite a bit of effort to do what we now see as a simple task, such as watching a specific episode of a show. Instead of being able to search for it on your phone, you really had to hunt it down, whether that was by looking through a TV guide and catching it as a rerun or renting a physical tape from a video store.

Unless you knew exactly where to look, you were in for a journey.

When Netflix first released their online service in 2007, it came as no surprise that they were able to quickly build up a large subscriber base. For only \$6.99 a month, subscribers gained access to what seemed like an infinite amount of content, no quest required. Over the next few years, Netflix grew into an entertainment juggernaut.

Not only did their streaming library continue to expand, but they even

started to produce their own shows, many of which went on to be critically praised. Other services, such as Hulu and Amazon Prime Video, tried to compete with the giant, but they were only able to gain a fraction of the same success.

They were not failures, however. Both still provided services that their competitor did not have, such as next-day streaming of new episodes, leading to many subscribing to all three.

Streaming services continued to be a convenience for general audiences until 2020, which is the year I believe they started to do more harm than good.

As we all know, 2020 was a rough year for pretty much everything,

especially the entertainment industry. The pandemic shut down much of what kept Hollywood going; theaters were closed, TV and film sets were shut down and productions were suddenly halted. This caused large profit losses for many studios.

The same cannot be said for streaming, though. I was actually at an all-time high during this period. Studio executives took note of this, and a shared idea appeared in their minds. This was the start of the streaming wars. Instead of producing anything new, they instead found a way to sell older products. Disney Plus, Max, Paramount Plus, Peacock, AMC Plus and Apple TV were just some of the services born from this idea.

Now, let us get the first problem out of the way.

I just listed six streaming services. If we add on the ones I named earlier, we now have a total of nine. That is far too many. If you wanted to get the basic plan for all of them, you would have to pay \$61 a month or \$732 a year.

Now if we do the premium plans for all of them, that would be \$117 a month, which is an astonishing \$1,404 a year. If we add on the average cost of basic cable, which is an additional \$132, the bill is going to be \$239 a month. While it is not necessary to own every available streaming service, this highlights just how quickly the cost of all of them can add up.

Also, at this point, owning multiple is kind of needed if you want a diverse library of content. Instead of everything being on Netflix, it is now spread all over the place.

Let us say you wanted to watch the newest Marvel Cinematic Universe movie, you have to go to Disney Plus. Do you not have Disney Plus? That is okay, you can just watch the newest "South Park" special instead; you have been really meaning to check that out anyway. You go to Max, the self-proclaimed home of the series, and you do not see it.

Confused as ever, you do a quick Google search to see what the problem is, only to discover that there is nothing wrong. The special is just on Paramount Plus, a service you do not own. You once again have to go on an adventure just to find an episode.

Now you might say to yourself, "It still beats having to get a physical copy." I strongly disagree with this notion because at this point, it may be better to just own one.

Shows and movies are constantly bouncing around from one place to another. This is mainly due to copyright issues and exclusive deals.

As annoying as this is, it does get worse. For the longest time my favorite movie, "Spider-man: Enter the Spider-verse" was available on Netflix. I was

able to watch the movie an ungodly amount of times all thanks to Netflix, so picture my surprise when I found out the movie was going to be leaving the platform and there were no plans for it to appear anywhere else. This destroyed me.

This forced me to pick up a blu-ray of the movie, which I complained about at first but quickly discovered it was for the best. I now own the movie forever and I do not have to worry about it disappearing one day.

Not every piece of media has the luxury of getting a physical release, however. As of recently, many streaming or streaming original content projects funded by their respective platforms have been getting deleted.

This happened recently with the shows "Willow," "Black Beauty" and "Y: The Last Man" all being removed from Disney Plus due to them being labeled as tax write offs. These three shows never got a physical release meaning it is now impossible to support them legally.

I can only imagine how the people who worked on these projects feel,

seeing something they worked so hard on being erased without a second thought. The lack of respect for the creatives that work for these media giants is sickening to see.

So what does the future of streaming look

like? It is honestly hard to say. It is not going away anytime soon, but I do not think it will ever reach the same level of public approval that it once held. It still serves its original purpose as a simple way of letting people enjoy their favorite pieces of media, it is just not as easy or convenient as it once was.

Watching a simple show should not be this hard.

*"If you wanted to get the basic plan for all of them (Disney Plus, Max, Paramount Plus, Peacock, AMC Plus and Apple TV), you would have to pay \$61 a month or \$732 a year."*

*"The lack of respect for the creatives that work for these media giants is sickening to see."*

# Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Asst. Editor: [Adam.grundt@wilkes.edu](mailto:Adam.grundt@wilkes.edu)

## Marts Center gymnasium gets a new look over break

By Zach Paraway  
Contributing Writer

Wilkes Athletics had a busy summer, and the results are easy to see in the Arnaud C. Marts Center.

Since the end of the 2022-2023 school year, Wilkes joined a new conference, leaving the Middle Atlantic Conference after almost 70 years. It joined the Landmark Conference for all sports except men's and women's ice hockey.

It also updated two of its main athletic facilities on campus.

Both Schmidt Stadium and the Henry Gymnasium received new renovations. Schmidt received new turf while the gymnasium had a complete renovation. The Henry Gymnasium was named after Frank Henry, who is also the namesake for the student union building just a block away from the gym.

The building had not been changed since its construction and the new update has been appreciated. It included a new floor which has the university's updated logo and the new conference affiliation on it. Also changed was the lighting system, now supporting LEDs for a much brighter and fuller room.

The last things updated were the scoreboard and bleachers.

The scoreboard now sports a fully electronic look and the bleachers have been updated from wood to full on retractable plastic with metal rails. The renovations total nearly \$1.2 million.

The mens and womens volleyball team, basketball teams and the wrestling team are among the sports that play in the renovated space..

Photos Courtesy of Liz Keller



**TOP:** The Henry Gymnasium is named after Frank Henry, who is also the namesake for the Student Union Building on campus

**BOTTOM:** New bleachers have been installed as part of the gymnasium's complete renovation.



The Wilkes 'W' sits at center-court of the newly-renovated gymnasium.



# NFL: New and old faces to keep an eye on this season

By Adam Grundt  
Asst. Sports Editor

As many viewers see the start of the National Football League season as the unofficial start of the fall, there are many exciting storylines to keep an eye on as the season gets underway.

The defending Super Bowl Champion Kansas City Chiefs kicked off the season against the Detroit Lions to start Thursday Night Football on Sept. 7.

The Philadelphia Eagles are looking to repeat last season that ended in a Super Bowl appearance led by quarterback, Jalen Hurts. After signing a large contract in the offseason, Hurts is one of the favorites to win the league's most valuable player award. They opened their season against the New England Patriots in Foxborough, Mass. on Sept. 10.

Eagles' defensive back, Brandon Graham, reflected on last year's successes

"We could almost taste it," said Graham. "It was right there. I'll never forget this team. We worked our butt off. We will be back".

With the departure of former Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, the National Football Conference (NFC) North is the division to watch this season.

Many believe the Minnesota Vikings will have an easy path to the division title. However, the Detroit Lions and the Chicago Bears are on the come-up, and will certainly give a challenge to the Vikings when competing for the division crown.

Bears quarterback Justin Fields, is poised to have a break-out season after the team had the worst record in the NFL last season, and offseason acquisitions, such as D.J. Moore and Yannick Ngakoue, give the Bears a true shot at competing for the division crown. Because of this, the Bears were challenged right out of the gate when they opened their season at home against their biggest rival, the Green Bay Packers on Sept. 10.

Chicago Bears general manager, Ryan Poles, commented on the expectations of

their star quarterback.

"Just continue to improve," Poles said. "(We) want those sack numbers to come down, interceptions to come down, make good reads, protect himself, just see him take that next step."

Another division to keep an eye on will be the NFC South.

The Jacksonville Jaguars are looking to appear in the playoffs while being led by quarterback Trevor Lawrence, while two new franchise faces are looking to make an impression on the league in their first seasons with their teams. C.J. Stroud is looking to take the reigns as the leader of the offense for the Houston Texans, while Anthony Richardson is looking to do the same in Indianapolis with the Colts.

The first Sunday Night Football game on Sept. 10, was a heated NFC East division rivalry matchup between the New York Giants and the Dallas Cowboys. Giants quarterback, Daniel Jones, is looking to jump into the category of elite quarterbacks in the league this season while Cowboys quarterback, Dak Prescott, looks to have a fully healthy season in 2023, which has been a struggle for him throughout his career.

"I don't desire to be the number one offense in the league, I want to be the number one team in the league with the number of wins and the championship," said Cowboys head coach Mike McCarthy when asked about the team's expectations for the upcoming season. "If we have to give up some production and take care of the ball better to get that, then that's what we'll do."

Monday Night Football kicked off on Sept. 11 when the Buffalo Bills took on the New York Jets in a clash of two superstar quarterbacks.

Future hall-of-fame quarterback Aaron Rodgers looked to make a memorable first impression in his inaugural game with his new team after an already storied career with the Green Bay Packers. Bills quarterback Josh Allen looked to lead his

team to a more promising season in 2023, as their season ended last year with a loss in the NFC Divisional round against the Cincinnati Bengals.

The 2023 season, as always, will be filled

with excitement with many storylines to be built off as the year progresses. Many new faces in the league, as well as some familiar ones, will be worth keeping an eye on throughout the year.

THE BEACON

**SPORTS IS  
LOOKING FOR WRITERS**



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OR PHOTOGRAPHING?**

**CONTACT:**

**ADAM GRUNDT**

**ADAM.GRUNDT@WILKES.EDU**

# Fall Sports: The start of the volleyball and soccer season

**By Samantha Mullen**  
Contributing Writer

With Fall sports already underway, many student athletes are excited about how their seasons will go.

This year the university is gearing up for a new journey in the Landmark Conference. The shift to a different conference has brought fresh energy into the athletic department with teams facing new competition when it comes to conference play.

Having some new competition has many athletes and coaches excited to see what this first year in the conference has to offer.

Men's soccer is off with a 1-2 start but Coach Michael Piranian is excited to compete in the Landmark this season.

Coach Piranian hopes the team will "come in with the right mindset and determination to prove [they] are going to be a tough program to compete with on a yearly basis."

The team's upcoming game this week is home against Rutgers-Camden at 1 p.m. on Sept. 16.

Women's Volleyball is already off with

a great start of wins against Keystone College and Penn State Hazleton.

Coach Joseph Czopek feels very confident in his players this year and stated that the team "is preparing hard in practice to be competitive in the new conference."

Additionally, many of the teams within the Landmark Conference have gone into the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament so the competition will be very strong.

Coach Czopek also expressed how the team will be doing overnight stays which the team has not done since before the pandemic.

To end the week, the team will travel to New Jersey on Sept. 17 to play Penn State Harrisburg, 2 p.m. and Rutgers-Camden, 4 p.m.

Entering a new conference can be a bit nerve racking for many of the athletes. Luckily, there is still some familiarity before conference play starts as many of the teams will be playing teams from within the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom conference such as Delaware Valley College, Misericordia University and King's College.



Graphic/Morgan Rich

*The Beacon is looking for sports writers for the  
Fall 2023 semester*

**If you are interested in sports writing,  
editing, photography or graphics contact  
Adam Grundt at [adam.grundt@wilkes.edu](mailto:adam.grundt@wilkes.edu)**

# Athlete of the Week

## Xavier Guerreiro

### Junior Soccer Center Midfield

#### **The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week**

Guerreiro was chosen as our Athlete of the Week (AOTW) after his performance during the soccer team's season opener at Penn State Berks.

Guerreiro scored two crucial goals on Sept. 1 to help lead the Colonels over Penn State Berks 6-0

**Major:** Computer science

**Hometown:** Newtown, Pa.

**High School:** Council Rock North High School

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

*My favorite sports memory from my time as a Colonel was beating Lycoming 4-1 at home my first-year. It was one of the most exciting games of my whole career.*

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

*My favorite professional sports team is Manchester United.*

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

*My favorite thing to do outside of sports is hang out with my friends or be in nature.*

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

*My favorite part of being an athlete here at Wilkes is having a brotherhood with my teammates.*

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

*My go-to sports movie is "Remember The Titans."*

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

*I would have wanted to play basketball.*

**What has been your favorite sports memory overall?**

*My favorite sports memory is winning Nationals with my club team, Princeton FC, in 2018.*

**What is your favorite post-game meal?**

*My favorite post-game meal is steak and potatoes.*

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

*I am grateful to be selected as the Athlete of the Week because my team helped me achieve this honor.*

The Beacon/Jess Fellerman

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

# WILKES FOOTBALL

ALL GAMES BEGIN AT NOON UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

9/2

KING'S COLLEGE\*

HOME

9/9

RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

AWAY

9/16

SUNY BROCKPORT

HOME

9/23\*

ST. JOHN FISHER UNIVERSITY

AWAY

9/30

JUNIATA COLLEGE\*\*

HOME

10/7

LYCOMING COLLEGE

AWAY

10/14

KEYSTONE COLLEGE

HOME

10/21\*\*

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY

AWAY

11/4

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA\*\*\*

HOME

11/11

MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY

AWAY

\*MAYOR'S CUP  
\*\*HOMECOMING  
\*\*\*SENIOR DAY

\*4 PM @ ST. JOHN  
\*\*1 PM @ SUSQUEHANNA

## **Door's open!**

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

- Writers
- Photographers
- Designers
- Social media managers
- Distribution managers
- Advertising managers

*...and more!*

## **Contact:**

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*Editor-in-Chief:*

[Morgan.Rich@wilkes.edu](mailto:Morgan.Rich@wilkes.edu)







Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

# THE BEACON

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

## Former Wilkes professor arraigned on felony charges, including criminal attempt-unlawful contact with minor

By Amanda Montgomery  
News Editor

A former Wilkes-University psychology professor was arraigned earlier this month on multiple felony charges, including criminal attempt - unlawful contact with minor, according to arrest papers.

Edward John Schicatanò, 59, of Plains Township, was involved in a sex sting on Aug. 7, by Musa Harris. Harris calls himself the Luzerne County Predator Catcher. Harris posted video to social media of his alleged confrontation with Schicatanò.

According to the criminal complaint:

Harris posed online as a 15-year-old girl and received a message from "Lora Smith." Smith was ultimately identified as Schicatanò. Schicatanò asked for the girl's age and was told "almost 16 years old." He then replied, "I'm sorry. Too young".

The online conversation continued, and police say that Schicatanò sent the girl a photo of two men engaged in a sexual act. He also repeatedly expressed concern over the girl's age and whether

the FBI was involved. He eventually wanted to meet the girl.

Police said Harris provided them with video of his alleged confrontation, and they were able to identify the man in the video as Schicatanò.

Wilkes University President Greg Cant issued an email on Aug. 21 about "very serious accusations ... against a longtime member" of the university's faculty. Cant did not specifically name Schicatanò.

According to the email, the university was made aware of the allegations on Aug. 19, and initiated its review process. As of Aug. 21, "the faculty member in question (was) no longer employed by the university, an outcome achieved in accordance with the steps outlined in the Faculty Handbook."

Contacted this week, Cant's office would not discuss the matter further, stating it does not comment on personnel decisions. A representative from Cant's office did confirm that Schicatanò is not currently employed by the university.

Dr. Paul Riggs, dean of arts and sciences, also declined to comment.

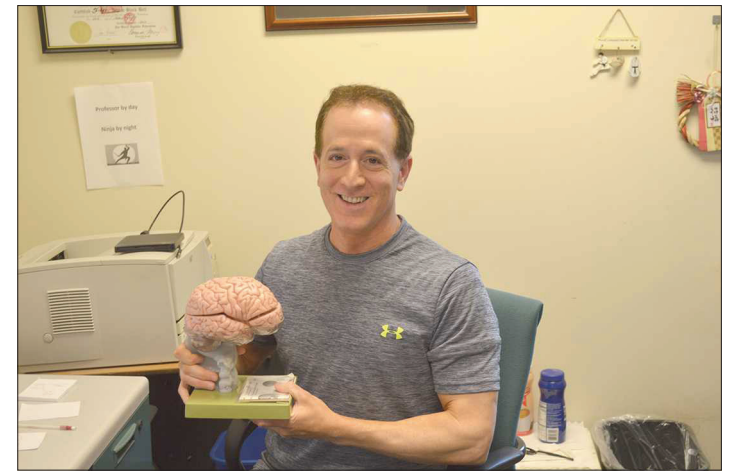
"He was the best professor I ever had..." said a student who spoke on

the condition of anonymity. "It feels like something was taken away from me."

According to Beacon files, Schicatanò received his Bachelor's Degree from Bloomsburg University, his PhD from Wake Forest University, and did post-doctoral research at SUNY Stony Brook in the field of neurobiology.

In a 2015 profile, Schicatanò told The Beacon that he decided to pursue a teaching career at Wilkes because of the benefits of teaching in a small, personable community. Schicatanò said that if he were to teach on a large and more populated campus, he would not have the same rapport with students.

Schicatanò is charged with criminal attempt - unlawful contact with minor - obscene and other sexual materials



Beacon file photo

and performances; criminal attempt - dissemination of explicit sexual material to a minor; and criminal use of a communication facility, according to arrest papers.

He was arraigned by District Justice James Haggerty and released on \$50,000 unsecured bail.

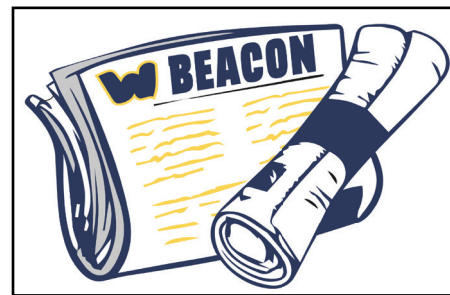
A preliminary hearing is scheduled at 9 a.m. on Sept. 20 with Luzerne County Central Court.



Cupboards, Closets  
and Care: On-campus  
resources, page 5



An inside look into the  
Conservatory at Wilkes  
University, page 9



Exploring the  
disheartening decline of  
local newspapers, page 16



Marts Center gymnasium  
gets a new look over  
summer break, page 19

# News

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

## Student Government notes: Sept. 6 weekly meeting

By Zach Paraway  
Contributing Writer

Aug. 30 marked the first student government meeting for the 2023-2024 school year. They opened with a student government fund of \$71,528.74.

The first piece of business for the school year was from William LePore, who provided an update for the alumni festivities of homecoming weekend. Activities have been planned for each day, starting Sept. 29, with the welcoming table and flashback event. The event is to welcome the alumni back to campus. Other events planned for the weekend include giveaways, a tent during Saturday's football game and a Saturday "fun day".

The African Cultural Association sought reactivation as a club. The presentation was given by junior business major, Kobina Otoo. The Wilkes African Cultural Association was established in 2017, but had

disbanded due to COVID. The club mission is to promote African culture in an enjoyable and entertaining manner.

They continued to explain what ideas and events they would present as a club with ideas such as African takeover day, bake sales and more ideas to promote the education of African culture to the public. This would be

week one of two and will be back next week to receive an official vote

The third and final order of new business was a new club recognition. The Chess Club has been operating for a year now on its own but would like to be fully recognized as a student

club. The club plans to use the money received for a new chess set and to help fundraising efforts.

They also explained community service ideas including teaching high school students the game, holding tournaments and participating in school events such as Big Event.

The last piece of business was internal and was an update

to the constitution for members of SG. Updated items include new service hours, a change in academic requirements and a change in the chain of command in case of an absence.

SG will meet again on Sept. 13.



### Table of Contents

News.....	2
Life, A&E.....	7
Opinion.....	14
Sports.....	19

## Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

### Family Day 2023

Family Day will take place on Saturday, Sept. 16. To find the schedule of events and to register visit <https://www.wilkes.edu/familyday>.

Online registration will close until Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 12 p.m. If you have any questions or would like to register by phone/email, please call (570) 408-4645 or email [familyday@wilkes.edu](mailto:familyday@wilkes.edu).

### College of Business and Engineering Career and Internship Fair

The College of Business and Engineering is hosting a career and

internship fair on Tuesday, Sept. 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. This fair is open to all students interested in working in the business, engineering and technology fields. Over 30 companies have already registered with more anticipated to come. Register to attend on Handshake.

Contact Carol Bosack for more information or questions at [carol.bosack@wilkes.edu](mailto:carol.bosack@wilkes.edu).

### Scholarship Opportunity for Students of Polish Descent

The Polish Room Committee Scholarship (\$3,000 top award) welcomes applications from Luzerne County residents. To be considered, applicants must write a brief description of their Polish heritage and what that heritage means to them. This letter must

be submitted, along with the applicant's name, WIN and contact information to Allison Naumann, Alumni House.

Applications can be emailed to [allison.naumann@wilkes.edu](mailto:allison.naumann@wilkes.edu) with the subject line "Polish Heritage Scholarships."

Deadline for applications is Oct. 13 at 4:30 p.m.

### Leadership Collegiate

This six-week, virtual course consists of online modules that provide current college students who are aspiring leaders with an innovative and flexible online learning experience. Participants work on weekly course content at their own pace.

The deadline for applications is Friday, Sept. 22. Use this link to apply: <https://www.leadershiplackawanna.com/leadership-collegiate-1>.

### Upcoming Events: 2023 Fall Semester

#### September

14 - Minute to Win it  
21 - Cooking Class  
24 - Paintball at Skirmish  
28 - Programming Board giveaway

#### October

5 - Hoedown Throwdown  
8 - Statue of Liberty Boat Tour NYC  
12-15 - Fall Break  
19 - Couch Potato  
23-27 - Freak Week  
28 - Dorney Haunted Park----

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: [Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu](mailto:Amanda.Montgomery1@wilkes.edu)

# Eugene S. Farley Library unveils its renovated Alden Learning Commons & Commuter Lounge

By **Amanda Montgomery**  
News Editor

The Eugene S. Farley Library received renovations to its Alden Learning Commons, also referred to as the lower level, 24/7 floor.

The extensive makeover to the Learning Commons includes new carpeting, furniture, paintwork and computer facilities.

Additional renovations include new tables and chairs to the student study rooms on the lower level, 24/7 floor, an increase in space with new tables in the study cubbies on the 24/7 floor and an update in all computers within the library.

The library administration thanked Student Government and the campus Facilities for their pivotal role in this renovation.

In addition to the enhancements, the university also introduced the newly established Commuter Lounge on the lower

level floor. The lounge had previously been on the second floor of the Student Union Building (SUB). The space offers a convenient space for commuter students to study and relax. Commuter students can swipe their student ID to access the space.

The library encourages all members of the campus community to take advantage of the recent developments, which were designed to foster an enriched learning environment and sense of belonging.

The library is open from 8 a.m. to midnight from Monday through Thursday; and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays. On weekends, the library is open on Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, from 3 to 11 p.m.

The library's basement is accessible after hours from the South Street WIN card entrance and from the main entrance during regular library open hours.

*More photos, Page 4*



(above) The Eugene S. Farley Library welcomes students to the newly renovated basement.



Photos: The Beacon/Amanda Montgomery

(above) The tables and chairs in the private computer cubby sections have been upgraded to provide greater comfort in the Alden Learning Commons.

(at right) Students can request up to two hours in the renovated private study rooms; sign up at the front desk.



...continued from Page 3



The commuter lounge has relocated from the second floor of the Sub to the basement of the library. Students can swipe their student ID to gain access.



The couches in the study cubbies were upgraded, along with the addition of new tables and an increase in space.

THE BEACON NEWSPAPER...



## We're Looking For Writers!

Join our team and build your resume

If you are interested, contact Kalen Churcher at [kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu](mailto:kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu)  
or Morgan Rich at [morgan.rich@wilkes.edu](mailto:morgan.rich@wilkes.edu)



# Cupboards, closets and care: On-campus resources

By Morgan Steiner  
Contributing Writer

There are some on-campus resources that virtually everyone knows about.

For example, most students know that Passan Hall houses the counseling and health centers. However, there are plenty of resources on campus that even seniors may not know about. Two of these resources are tucked away in the back of the Career Center and are known as the Colonel Closet and the Colonel Cupboard.

Catie Becker, the director of civic engagement, explains that the Colonel Cupboard is "...an on-campus food pantry that offers grocery items, refrigerated and frozen items and grab and go snacks."

The food comes from the CEO Food Bank in Pittston. The produce pop ups that appear several times a semester in the Student Union Building (SUB) concourse are supplied and hosted by the Colonel Cupboard.

Ada Soriano, a P1 pharmacy student and Bonner Leader, explained, "the produce pop-up is a Bonner Leader project hosted by the Colonel's Cupboard...Bonner Leaders assist in handing out the produce."

Located near the Cupboard is the Colonel Closet.

The director of career services, Carol Bosack, explained that "the Colonel Career Closet provides business casual and business professional clothes that students may take and keep, as needed, for interviews, career fairs or dressing business casual for an internship or job."

Students can find blazers, slacks, button-ups and anything they might need for a job interview or their first internship.

"It allows students to get groceries for free and not have to worry about when they can have another meal or whether or not they can go to this interview because of their clothing," said Edweana Alexis, junior political science and communication studies major. The cupboard and the closet provide a bridge and lessen the stress on a student that is struggling."

Students' academic performance may

be hindered when they are preoccupied with concerns about their next meal. Based on a 2021 survey, it is projected that food insecurity will impact one out of every three college students in Pennsylvania during their undergraduate studies. The ability to buy new, business-professional attire is not financially feasible for all students.

For those lacking transportation options, visiting the Salvation Army or a thrift store can be unattainable. The convenience of having these essentials readily available outside the SUB is a notable advantage.

"I have utilized both services," said Soriano. "Although many people know about the produce pop-up, many do not know that there is an option at the cupboard to order online and have your food order dropped off at the post office. It is very convenient when you do not have the time to stop by and look for what you need in person."

Students do not have to meet any requirements to utilize these services. They are free and available for all students, regardless of financial aid status or meal plans.

"Many students are full-time college students, and full-time college students do not have a job," said Alexis. "With them not having a job comes the aspect of money and groceries are expensive. I believe things like the Cupboard or the Closet are important because groceries are expensive and college kids do not have a lot of money to purchase \$200 or \$300 worth of groceries every two weeks."

The Colonel Cupboard and Closet are housed in the Career Center, outside the Henry Student Center. Students can enter through the main doors and walk to the back, or enter through the door located along the sidewalk adjacent to the parking lot. Both are on the first floor, so there are no accessibility concerns. All students need is their student ID and a bag to carry their food.

"My school offered something small like this, primarily for dry goods and snacks," said Becker. "The treats once in a while were nice but it would have been awesome to have something more reliable, especially for those times

between paychecks."

There is a Google form students fill out to order their groceries from the Cupboard. The Colonel Closet is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekdays and the Colonel Cupboard is open from 9

a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. Produce pop-ups will be held regularly throughout the semester, on Sept. 13, Oct. 18 and Nov. 29 during club hours in the first floor of the SUB.



**TOP: The Colonel's Closet offers a wide variety of business and business-casual items, including suits, shoes, and even jewelry.**



**The inside of the Colonel's Cupboard, where each drawer and shelf are filled and labeled with free food and supplies.**

Photos Courtesy of Morgan Steiner

# PROGRAMMING BOARD'S FALL EVENTS

9/14 Minute to Win It

9/21 Cooking Class

9/28 Giveaway

10/5 Hoedown Throwdown

10/19 Couch Potato

10/23-27 Freak Week

11/2 Silent Disco

11/9 Giveaway

11/16 Fast Food BINGO

11/30 Break-FEST

12/7 BINGO

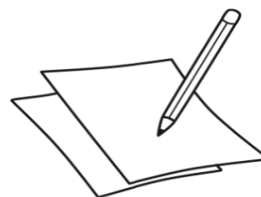
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# Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor: [Zara.lantzman@wilkes.edu](mailto:Zara.lantzman@wilkes.edu)

## “The One Rose:” Sordoni Art Gallery’s Latest Exhibit

By Anthony Cazun

Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor

“The One Rose: The Life and Legacy of Rose O’Neill” is the latest edition to the Sordoni Art Gallery, functioning as a celebration of the work created by the multi-talented illustrator and writer, Rose O’Neill.

While famously the creator of the iconic kewpie characters, which would become so popular they would grow a life of their own, O’Neill had a much broader array of work, stylings and messages.

During the celebration of the Sordoni Art Gallery’s 50th anniversary, the latest exhibit seeks to show off O’Neill’s iconic art, but also display her diverse and more unknown body of work.

Hailing from Wilkes-Barre, O’Neill was born in the summer of 1874 and had an interest in various forms of art from early

childhood. She began creating illustrations for various newspapers and magazines in her teens, then moved to New York to expand her professional career. In New York she joined a publication titled “Truth,” it is there that she created the first comic strip to be published by a woman.

“She could do things that at the time women could not,” said senior digital design and media Arts major Erika Tomes. “She carved her own path in a world made by and for men. Even in the modern world it’s incredible to think about how she was able to do that. The idea of breaking through that barrier, doing what you think you could not do.”

O’Neill was an avid proponent of fighting inequality and advocating for women’s rights, becoming a key figure in breaking women into the art scene. She actively promoted the artwork of other women, often worked with women, notably her

sister Callista O’Neill, and often weaved women’s suffrage and discrimination messages into her work.

Once she garnered more popularity and prestige, she began to work more independently. In 1909, O’Neill would debut her newest and most well known creation, “The Kewpie.”

Kewpies are almost angel-like illustrations of rosy-cheeked children that became very popular in the early 1900’s, appearing in comic strips, posters and most famously, as dolls. The name “Kewpie” is derived from Cupid, the Roman god of love and desire. Kewpie’s are genderless and share a similar physiology to common interpretations of the Roman god.

O’Neill famously claimed that the design for kewpie’s came to her in a dream. O’Neill explained that the main idea of “The Kewpies” is to be cute beings from Kewpieville that do good deeds in a silly way.

“I think they’re adorable little creatures,” said McKenna Dolan, senior digital design and media arts major. “They bring so much light and smiles to our visitors’ faces. They always get a kick out of them.”

The gallery displays many of O’Neill’s Kewpie illustrations, as well as the iconic dolls and merchandise that accompany them. However that does not mean the gallery is lacking her other work, as the gallery aims to also present the true versatility of O’Neill’s talent.

“She’s most well known for her Kewpies but her work is so much more complex and deeper,” said Melissa Carestia, assistant director at the Sordoni Art Gallery. “She was a multifaceted person and you can see that in her work. Especially her sweet monsters work, which deserve much more praise than they get. The way that she sculpts with her line, you can see that she really models the figure and it has so much weight to it. She was working on it at the same time as the kewpies and it’s so

deep and complex by comparison.”

While O’Neill’s is highly regarded for her illustrations, her work as an author is also very important to understanding her as a person.

Her novel “The Loves of Edwy” and the illustrations that accompany it are on display as well. O’Neill’s novel is more dramatic and almost semi-biographical, as she wrote several of the characters to have many of her own qualities and experiences.

“I really love her later work that’s more androgynous and is a complete 180 from “The Kewpies,” it just shows how prolific of an artist she was and how much range she had throughout her career,” said Dolan.

Not only is O’Neill a prominent figure in Pennsylvania’s art history, but also emblematic of a shift in women’s rights and the rights of marginalized communities within both the artistic medium and the world at large. While her kewpies have taken on a life of their own, they would be nothing without the tenacity of their creator.

“I think it is interesting any time the art surpasses or outlives the artists,” said Carestia. “There are people in all kinds of subcultures getting kewpie tattoos, making unique little kewpie dolls. I think that’s the importance of art, how much it touches humanity. Of course something that is adorable and goofy is gonna resonate with people long after they disappear.”

“The One Rose: The Life and Legacy of Rose O’Neill” exhibit in the Sordoni Art Gallery will be on display until Oct. 8.

The Sordoni Art gallery will also be hosting various other events such as the Cartooning Workshop with Kevin O’Neill event and the “Whether We are Rich or Poor, We Can Love Each Other The Same” Art in Context Lecture.

The gallery’s doors are open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon through 5 p.m. on Saturdays.



The Beacon/Anthony Cazun

An example of O’Neill’s kewpies currently on display at the Sordoni Art Gallery.

# Going Clubbing

**By Anthony Cazun**

*Asst. Life, Arts and Entertainment Editor*

As Wilkes University's annual club day came and went, many clubs were vying for the attention of students both new and old.

However, there was one club that may have stood out to those that seek an outlet for their artistic side. Studio 20 is a student run production club that particularly focuses on design, collaboration and provides real life experience to students of every major and skill level.

Studio 20's focus is primarily digital. The club seeks to provide graphics, logos, layouts, social media advertising and more to various clients, clubs and events.

The club focuses on expanding student's portfolios and gives students all kinds of experience in the realm of design and the more diplomatic aspect of it.

"Studio 20 is a student-run production club that does creative work for both on and off-campus clients at no charge," said assistant professor of digital design and media art, Lisa Reynolds. "In recent years, student teams have completed branding

projects for area businesses and non-profits, photo shoots, website designs and social media content. "It is for people who appreciate and celebrate design in any medium."

The studio has a strong focus on collaboration, both internally and externally. Internally, Studio 20 designers may help each other with a task or ask each other for pointers, opinions, edits, a different perspective and more.

"Even if someone is not experienced enough to work on a design job, there are a ton of roles associated with the club that students can work on as they grow their skill set," said Reynolds.

Externally, collaborations also come in the form of working with ad agencies, marketing departments, galleries and other clubs or event organizers. A group may be seeking out a graphic or poster for an upcoming event they are aiming to promote, and they will work closely with designers to make that idea come to life.

There is especially a lot of crossover between clubs within the digital design and media arts umbrella, meaning those with interest in working on projects for something video game related or even some light photography will be encouraged to create.

"There is game design, so esports just started this year and I know that we plan on doing collabs with them," said Kyra Britzky, digital design and media arts junior and Studio 20 historian. "It would be great to get both of our names out there by working with them and growing together."

Studio 20 encourages those of all ability levels to join, no matter how experienced or inexperienced with programs or specific techniques they may be. All it takes is some interest and the willingness to learn. Art and design is not fixed, there is always something new to explore, and an ability to sharpen. Designers want to learn, teach and create.

"A lot of people think they need to be in the digital design and media arts

major or have big art skills, but no, we have opened it to everyone," said Studio 20 president and senior digital design and media arts major Maggie McHenry. "We will teach you how to use the programs and different techniques, so anyone is welcome to join."

Studio 20 welcomes students of every major. Students that are not specifically within the digital design and media arts major will expand the accessibility and allow for various types of perspectives and talents.

"The club used to be solely DDMA majors, but I feel like opening up the club to people interested in it that aren't majoring would be a good opportunity to have new people," said Britzky. "We are doing the workshops, too, which would make new people want to come in more."

Studio 20 meets twice a week in Breiseth 020. Tuesday's are primarily for members working on design projects, while Thursday's are for all club members.

Graphic/Lara Mullen

## Club of the Week: Studio 20

**Beacon Bumps**

*Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff picks their favorite song of the week. Check out this week's bumps to the right! Our very own Zara Lantzman 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:**

I think you should - Jess Fellerman

**Amanda Montgomery, News Editor:**

Cool About It - boygenius

**Emma Broda, News Staff Writer:**

Brando - Lucy Dacus

**Zara Lantzman, LA&E Editor:**

Come Back...Be Here - Taylor Swift

**Anthony Cazun, LA&E Asst. Editor:**

Lessen The Damage - Poppy

**Cally Williams, LA&E Staff Writer:**

Lovers Rock - TV Girl

**Sydney Allabaugh, Opinion Editor:**

NO HEY LEY- Kali Uches

**"Freeze," Opinion Staff Writer:**

Carnage- prodby668

**Adam Grundt, Sports Asst. Editor:**

Dial Drunk - Noah Kahan, Post Malone

**Lara Mullen, Designer:**

Kimdracula - Deftones

**Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager:**

Rollercoaster - Bleachers



# An Inside Look into the Conservatory at Wilkes University

By Cally Williams

*Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff*

The Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts at Wilkes works to nourish and encourage performing arts of all kinds.

The Conservatory is one of the programs located in the Darte. The Conservatory consists of the Degnan Ballet Center, Indian Classical Dance, and instrumental and vocal music lessons. Music instruction includes private lessons in voice, piano, guitar, violin, viola, flute, percussion, trombone, tuba, harp, french horn, clarinet and music theory.

The Degnan Ballet Center focuses on classical ballet, with its main focus being technique. There are seven levels of ballet classes varying in difficulty along with a pre-ballet class for younger aspiring dancers.

In addition to ballet, Indian classical dance is another facet of the Conservatory. It is taught by Sujata Nair Mulloth and has been a part of the Conservatory for 20 years. There are beginner, intermediate and advanced classes offered in the fall and spring sessions.

At its founding, the Conservatory was more focused on music and musical theater rather than dance. Now, the Conservatory provides instruction in music, classical Indian dance and classical ballet, but still has the common goal of sharing the joy of performing arts with the community.

The Conservatory was established in 1988 by Jean Anastasia and Jim Harrington, while the Degnan Ballet Center was founded in 1983 by Kristin Degnan-Boonin and her late husband Peter Degnan. Degnan-Boonin and Degnan established university classes for Wilkes students, and the ballet center was later added to the Conservatory.

“It belongs here,” said Degnan-Boonin. “It felt right for the Degnan Ballet Center to be a part of the Wilkes University Conservatory,” as she and her husband had already started the university’s dance program.

She quoted renowned choreographer George Balanchine, “First a school,” when explaining why she wanted her ballet center to be a part of the university. She wanted it to be a part of the nurturing learning environment of the university.

Degnan-Boonin has been a part of the Conservatory and the Degnan Ballet Center since its inception. When talking about the Conservatory, she referred to it as “The jewel of the valley.” “It is an environment where artists of all different genres come together and collaborate. It makes us truly unique.”

She also explained how the Conservatory presents ballet in its authentic form. The art is passed down through generations, from one teacher to another, so the technique and choreography that current students are learning is the same as what dancers from hundreds of years ago studied.

“It is the one place in the valley where you can find it all. Seeing other performing artists, even just passing by in the hall, is truly inspiring,” said Degnan-Boonin. “It keeps the creative juices flowing.”

The Conservatory puts on several performances a year. These performances include an annual performance of “The Nutcracker” in December, a ballet recital in June, an Indian classical show in May and music recitals in the spring and fall.

“The Nutcracker” is an annual festive staple of the Conservatory. While many studios perform abridged versions of the famous Tchaicovsky ballet, the Conservatory at Wilkes performs the full length “Nutcracker.” Auditions for this year’s production of “The Nutcracker” will take place on Sept. 24th in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center.

Along with the “Nutcracker” on Dec. 16 and 17, the Conservatory also performs a full length ballet in June. In the summer of 2023, they staged a ballet version of the famous fairytale, “Cinderella.”

The Conservatory also hosts a summer dance intensive that is open to dancers from all over the area. This intensive program is open to any serious dancer age 11 and up. It lasts for two weeks in July and offers classes in ballet technique, jazz, yoga/pilates, pointe and pre-pointe, classical variations and modern dance.

The Conservatory is a proud aspect of Wilkes University. “It is the feather in the university’s cap,” stated Conservatory coordinator Lauren Gentilesco. The Conservatory serves not only the university but the whole Wyoming Valley community.

By sharing the gift of performing arts with students, the Conservatory is



From left, Sarah Polansky, Amelia Smicherko and Morgan Rich perform as Spanish princess in the June ballet,

continuing to grow the ballet tradition. As Degnan-Boonin stated before, dance is passed down through generations. “It is evolutionary.”

“We give students as professional a setting as possible,” stated ballet instructor Karla Kovatch. “The fact that students are prepared enough to get accepted into prestigious schools is a huge

accomplishment.”

This September marks the 40th anniversary of the Degnan Ballet Center. The university commemorates the profound impact that the Conservatory has had on its students and the whole Wilkes community. Degnan-Boonin added, “There are many fine schools, but this one is a true gem.”



From left, Morgan Rich, Amanda Merrick-Tompkins and Amelia Smicherko pose for a picture backstage as princesses in the June ballet, “Cinderella.”

Photos: The Beacon/Morgan Rich

# Writers Guild of American West stands up for its rights

By Jean Bonn  
Contributing Writer

On May 1, the Writers Guild of American West, or the WGA, tweeted that their board of directors, along with the council of the Writers Guild of America East, voted unanimously to call a strike beginning May 2 at 12:01 a.m.

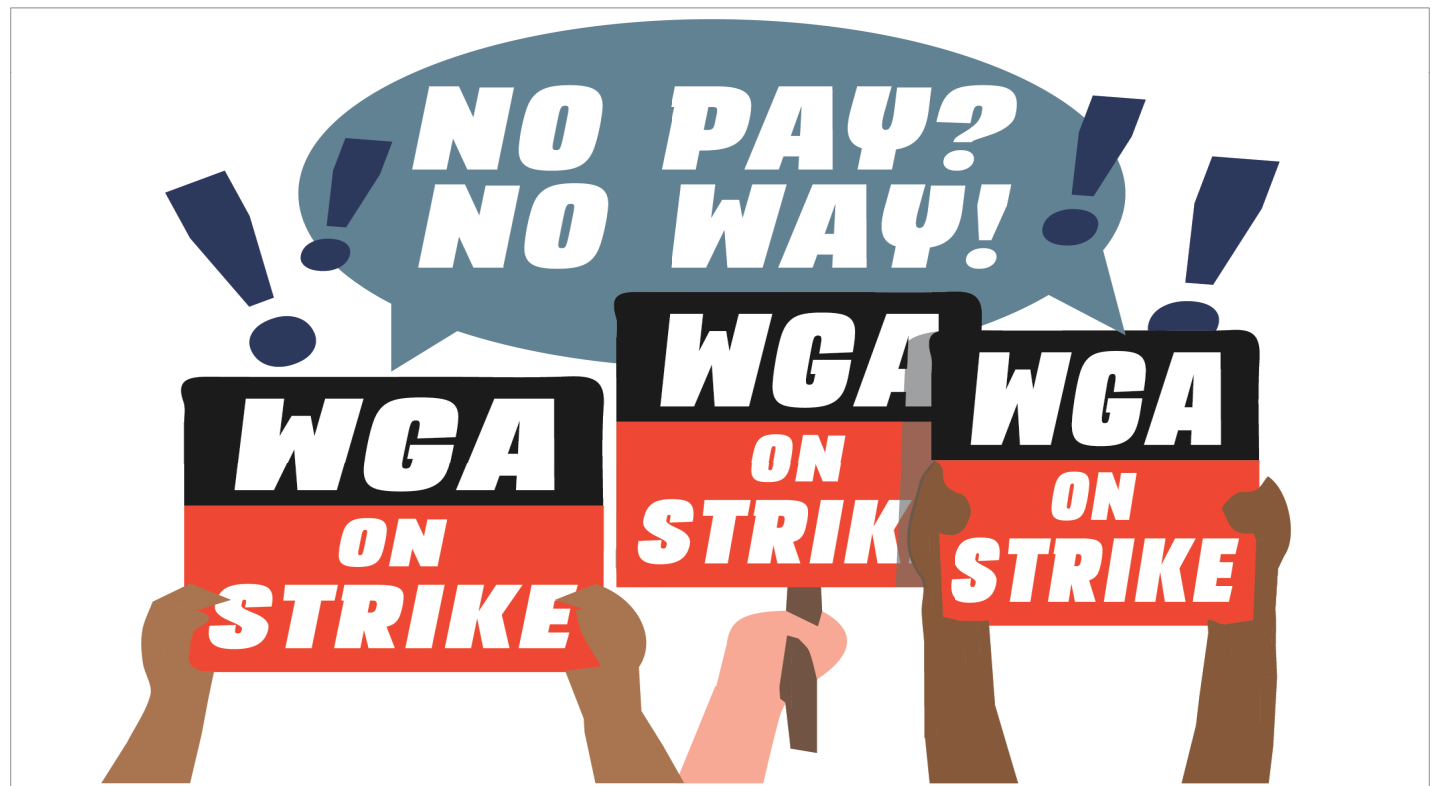
The strike came after contract negotiations between the WGA and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, or the AMPTP, went nowhere. Most of the WGA's complaints stem from issues regarding streaming series and films. Production companies have hired less writers with even less time to write scripts, and compensation for streaming series and shows are not standardized.

On top of this, the increase in artificial intelligence has the potential to decrease jobs for writers, since production companies can use the technology to write scripts as opposed to hiring writers. The WGA wanted these complaints to be corrected, but the AMPTP said that they could not fulfill their requests. In July, the Screen Actors Guild and American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, often referred to as SAG-AFTRA, joined the WGA and went on strike for better pay and job security.

"I think it is really sad that thousands of creative and hardworking people have to fight for months just to negotiate for fair payment and treatment," said Emma Klusmeyer, a sophomore environmental science major. "The studios are earning billions on the writers' work and they are not getting much in return."

According to their website, the Writers Guild of America West is a labor union for writers located in the western United States. The writers in their union are responsible for the scripts and production of a variety of content fans across the country view on a daily basis. Television shows, documentaries, animation, films and even videogames.

Their primary function is to ensure that the writers in the guild are provided with fair working conditions by production companies. Some of their standards for such conditions include proper pension, health benefits and basic compensation for their work. The SAG-AFTRA also strives to ensure fair working rights for artists, however they



also represent those who are in front of the camera or behind the microphone such as dancers, dj's, singers, actors and puppeteers.

Although it may seem like the strikes will only impact those in Hollywood, they have already had large impacts on programming schedules in a variety of channels. Most channels and streamers have had content saved, but viewers will most likely begin to see the strikes' impacts as we get closer to fall. Late night shows such as *The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon* and *Saturday Night Live* have already been placed on hiatus.

Most channels have started filling their schedules with reality television shows and reruns. Shows that are currently in production have had their release dates delayed by at least two months. Movies, on the other hand, have at least a year until the impacts become noticeable to audiences.

"Even though it is disappointing that many shows are being delayed, I do think it is for a good cause," said Madi Hudak, a sophomore environmental science major. "Many people that write and act in shows and movies make little to no profit from having their shows on streaming services like on Netflix, and that is unfair."

The most impacted people during this

strike are not the fans of television and film. Rather, they are the guild members who are currently out of work in order to make their point to production companies. As expected with any strike, the WGA has a long list of forbidden activities for their members. Some notable items on the list include writing, editing, and film festival promotion.

It should be noted that writers can technically still write scripts, just not sell them or develop them further. This means that over 11,500 writers are currently out of a job and source of income. However, California bill SB799 would potentially provide unemployment benefits to workers who have been striking for more than two weeks.

"I support the writers strike and believe it is a necessary step to ensure a better future for all writers," said Casey McNally, a sophomore pharmacy major.

Celebrities have been vigilant to promote the strike of social media, garnering the support of fans like Casey. Photos and videos of celebrities, such as Olivia Wilde, Darren Criss, and Elliot Page protesting have gone viral, increasing the public's awareness of the strike. Seeing their favorite actors and actresses on the picket line has also reminded audiences that the content

they consume on television and streaming platforms was created in part by writers, providing some encouragement to support the WGA and SAG-AFTRA.

However, not all celebrities are fully in support of the strikes. In fact, many have been called out online for posting that they support the strike yet continuing to work on projects. Some have even candidly said that they were against the strikes as a whole. Bill Maher in particular has said that he feels that writers are not owed a living while on the "Club Random" podcast.

A letter of opposition has also circulated the internet regarding the SAG-AFTRA's strike in particular. The letter was signed by George Clooney, Morgan Freeman, Tom Hanks and more than 130 other Hollywood actors and actresses.

There is no indication that the strike will end anytime soon, since the WGA and SAG-AFTRA are still negotiating with the AMPTP. The last time that the WGA had a strike was 15 years ago, which lasted 100 days. However, today's strikers have made one thing clear: they would not be stopping until their demands have been met.

Graphic/Lara Mullen

# Day Trip

## *Zany Day Trips with Zara: Jim Thorpe*

**By Zara Lantzman**

*Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor*

When you think of Wilkes University, do you ever stop to think about what fun things there are to do around the area.

Consider Jim Thorpe, a place and a person. Now we obviously cannot go see Jim Thorpe, the person, as he died in March 1953.

What you can see, however, is a quaint, active and beautiful town that shares his name.

Jim Thorpe is located in Carbon County, Pa. It is a 43 minute drive from Wilkes-Barre. Forty-three minutes and you can enjoy a whole day of fun.

If you are a spiritual person, then Jim Thorpe is right for you. In the middle of the town, there is a store called, The Emporium of Curious Goods. They have all kinds of metaphysical and religious things, along with a lot of Wiccan items.

For all you "Harry Potter" fans, Muggle's Mug is not your normal coffee shop. When you walk in you are greeted by the "Harry Potter" movies playing and decorations from the series everywhere. Even better, all their food and drink items are Harry Potter-related.

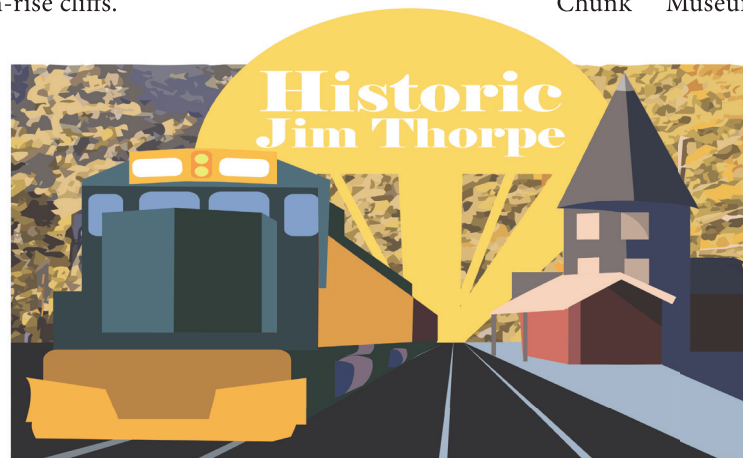
A piece of advice: Wait more than 30 minutes if you are going to get their tea, as I learned the hard way.

For fans of the wild waters, there is whitewater rafting along the Lehigh River and I highly recommend it. It was my first time rafting and it definitely was not my last.

There are all kinds of different tour groups that take you on the river. Regardless of what group or company you pick, it is a whirl of fun.

Directly next to the river is the Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway. This train ride lasts 77 minutes and starts right by the parking lot in Jim Thorpe. Tickets are \$24 for adults and \$10 for children.

The train follows the Lehigh River, and goes over bridges into Glen Onoko and Lehigh Gorge State Park. On the route, you can see wildlife, mountain scenery and high-rise cliffs.



Across the railway is an old jail, previously known as Carbon County Jail, and active from 1870-1995. The jail holds tours where you can see everything from the warden's headquarters to solitary confinement.

There is rich history at this jail as many people were hanged. There is also a rumor that you can see a handprint on the wall to this day during from one of the hangings. On top of all of that, in the fall, the jail holds ghost tours at night.

If you are a fan of looking at mansions on Zillow, then you will love this next option. On the edge of town sits one of the most beautiful homes to see: Asa

Packer Mansion.

The house was previously owned by Asa Packer, and in 1956, it was opened to the public. Packer was the owner of the Lehigh Valley Railroad and founded Lehigh University.

History buffs, this is for you. Jim Thorpe was previously called Mauch Chunk, and there is the Mauch Chunk Museum that

for tours but they can book rooms, as it is now a bed and breakfast. It is still worth seeing the outside architecture, as the popular ride, The Haunted Mansion, at Walt Disney World Resort is based off of the Harry Packer Mansion.

For people of age, Jim Thorpe is home to many wineries. Big Creek Vineyard and Wild Elder Wine and Co are only some of the wineries in the area. Wild Elder Wine and Co. is directly across the street from Muggle's Mug on Broadway Street.

The winery makes ciders, wines and even non-alcoholic beverages. They make all their wine with elderberries, hence the name. On top of all of that, they have wine tasting and even sell charcuterie boards and sandwiches.

Jim Thorpe is home to many gift shops and has unique gifts that you cannot find elsewhere. After your adrenaline pumped day, there are many food places to pick from that make you wanting more, especially the desserts.

Jim Thorpe is the perfect place to visit in the fall and I highly recommend it and would give this day trip a rating of 9/10.



Graphics/Lara Mullen

# Zen Night

**By Emma Broda**  
*News Staff Writer*

During the time of the year, when classes get more and more intense, something that gets overlooked is self-care. It can become easy to fall into a habit of spending too much time on jobs and schoolwork, and students may overlook their own well-being.

On Sept. 7, Programming Board offered a night for students to focus on themselves with a self-care night. Students gathered in the Henry Student Center to enjoy different self-care themed activities and food.

The event was a hit with students being drawn to the promise of a stress relieving night. Abby Malin, first-year psychology major, shared that the event seemed like a fun night to unwind and spend time with her friends.

The night of relaxation included a yoga session, painting succulent plant pots, friendship bracelet making, do-it-yourself body scrubs and a raffle for a massage gift card.



Making Body Scrubs

“My goal this year is to take more time for myself, and this seemed like the perfect thing,” said Molly Blaskiewicz, a junior marketing major.

In addition to the self-care activities, Programming Board also provided students with charcuterie boards and mocktails adorned with tiny umbrellas. Students were also able to enjoy the snacks provided and the skincare headbands that were given to them.

Zoë Morley, a sophomore biology major, said, “I think the body scrubs were a cool idea.”

For students who try to prioritize self-care, school can be exhausting and attending events like self-care night is a perfect way to alleviate stress. Some students found that although they regularly take time to themselves, events with a focus on self-care can still be beneficial.

Logan Colonna, a sophomore marketing major, said that he considers self-care a way to better himself, and personally enjoyed the mocktails, specifically the strawberry daiquiris.

The night ended with students going home with the crafts they made, a multitude of skincare products and more so that they could be relaxed to continue on with the semester.



Yoga Session



Plant Pot Painting

Event Photo



# Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact opinion editor: [Sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu](mailto:Sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu).

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## Our Voice

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

# Stop making remakes of original movies

Has the movie industry fallen into the ravenous hands of Hollywood's money-hungry directors and producers? Movie remakes within Hollywood have seemingly turned the corner from being possible blockbusters to falling into a black hole of unoriginality.

The United States' film industry has been incredibly successful and has thrived rapidly since the 1900s. However, with theaters being filled with remakes, reboots, and sequels, are we beginning to see the industry's downfall and lack of creativity?

According to *tjToday*, movies depend on a new evolution of ideas, and techniques, however, when the same ideas are utilized over and over again, it can cause this change to stand still. When directors and producers remake and reboot different past stories, the outcome will generally be a more generic counterpart and will rarely bring anything new to the table.

A huge problem with movie remakes is that the directors attempt to recreate the same emotions and feelings that the original creator had in mind and created within their audience. The truth of the matter is that a remake will never be able to evoke the same emotions and feelings

the audience felt the first time around. This is particularly true when it comes to recreations of classic movies, especially when the original creator of the movie may no longer be alive to collaborate on the remake.

Casumo, a betting website, conducted a study with the search engine optimization firm Verve Search in which they standardized IMDb and Metacritic scores to compare different ratings and profits of recent movie remakes.

The results ended up being not-so-great for remakes with 91 percent scoring lower with audiences than the originals. The *Washington Post* also pointed out during this study that only 21 percent of these movies were more profitable.

Most of the time, there is no point in remaking movies because of the fact that some originals were not made all that long ago. For example, The Walt Disney Company released their animated hit film, "Moana," in 2016 and has already announced that they are in the process of producing a live-action remake of the film.

A bad remake or reboot of a movie can have a negative lasting legacy, as well. If a movie is remade unsuccessfully or lacks

creativity, this can cause a negative view of the original film and affect how people view the original.

However, if people hate these remakes so much, why on earth is Hollywood still producing them at an outstanding rate?

According to *Vice*, remakes of movies still pay off even if they do not beat the original because "there is profit and pleasure to be had in the familiar." Nostalgia might make people believe that the original is better, however, that is the factor that makes them see the remake anyway. Nostalgia is what drives the views.

It feels as if Hollywood is creating these remakes and reboots to earn a quick buck instead of paying attention to its audience and creating a quality film. It feels as if the original films they created are being exploited for money instead of being recreated for enjoyment.

The Internet Movie Database states that Hollywood consistently investing in these remakes, reboots and sequels will eventually lead to their decline.

If remakes of movies do not stop, these films will destroy Hollywood's creativity and creative processes, which will lead to the film industry's eventual downfall.

**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 reason you need to play single-player games

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

Do you feel that video games are not for you? Or maybe you play them, but you do not find them interesting? Or worse, you have enjoyed games in the past, and you cannot put down the controller despite it being boring?

Not to worry, this is a common phenomenon known as “Gamer’s Block” and it plagues society by the thousands everyday. However, it is not a disease that is incurable. In fact, the solution to this problem is simple.

Most players enjoy gaming with their friends and that is usually how it starts. A player will enjoy a game enough to play on their own, but soon they face major drawbacks which are caused by queuing into a game’s online player base.

This is an atmosphere that is cruel and destructive towards gamers because it involves unfiltered internet toxicity and imbalance in skill between players. There are players who spend their entire lives playing a single game, such as “League of Legends” and “CS:GO,” and the large skill disparity between players ruins the experience.

These issues are the tip of the iceberg.

The fact is, playing a competitive game in-person is usually a much healthier experience than playing online. For example, “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate” is greatly enhanced when you can be face-to-face with your opponent on the same console without relying on the quality of your connection.

The real problem with your block is that you are playing the wrong type of game in the first place. Competitive and online-based games are causing the troubles. People no longer enjoy playing because other people are better than they are at “Street Fighter” and do not give them a chance to show off the new combo that they learned or to test out a new skin or gun that they unlocked in “Valorant.” Therefore, the solution to the problem is to drop these games altogether.

“What? How can I drop every game I play? What do I play then?”

Exactly. Try picking up a game that features a story mode or campaign for single players. You will soon learn the value in gaming is to appreciate the game and not

hate on the players.

Not only are single-player games very engaging, but players can rely on learning and skill rather than the amount of time they spend playing the game. These types of games allow players the flexibility to be creative and play how they want.

One of the most revolutionary single-player games in the modern day is “The Legend of Zelda: Tears of the Kingdom,” which has created a very wholesome community of highly skilled, artistic players and allowed them to unleash their creativity in an open-world setting with unique mechanics for building and fighting. Players in fan bases such as “Tears of the Kingdom” get together to celebrate a common game that they all enjoy, rather than destroying each other’s ego with unnecessary disrespect.

Of course, the single-player genre includes games for everyone.

FromSoftware is a famous company known for featuring its highly strategic form of combat in games such as “Elden Ring” and “Sekiro.” These games also include boss fights that allow players to test out various strategies and become skilled with patterns and techniques. Some players prefer to be the boss themselves, such as in “Doom,” the action-packed shooter where the main character is a demon-slaughtering machine.

There are also loads of Indie titles that all feature intriguing stories and mechanics. My personal favorites are “Hollow Knight,” “Castle Crashers,” “N++” and “Superliminal.”

The lesson here is that single-player games, despite what gamers might try to convince you, are much more diverse, immersive and simply playable. The effort that goes into these games is much greater than the cookie cutter competitive games.

Nobody can judge or insult you for how you play, and instead of spending a fortune on peripherals, you can direct those funds to buying more high-quality video games. Most importantly, these games offer the spark of creativity and enjoyment that you, a bored, helpless player, are probably looking for.

# The Return of The Red Raven: An original story

By Leah Smith

Contributing Writer

Murder! Mystery! Action! Justice! Those were the four words that lived in Rick Greenblatt’s head even after 37 years of hearing them blared out onto television screens around the world. Those were the days where he thought he was above it all. Once, a wild young actor who starred in the biggest superhero mystery show of the 80s. Now, an old department store cashier.

“Does this lamp work with my coupon?” a man with a blond receding hairline asked.

Rick grabbed the coupon from the man’s pale hand and held it up closely to his face. He adjusted his glasses and read the coupon carefully. It was a 20 percent off home decor and appliance coupon.

“Yes, sir. It works,” Rick answered in a bored voice.

“Can you apply that to my order?” the customer asked.

Rick grumbled, “Yeah.”

He scanned the lamp and cereal boxes that were laid out on the checkout counter. The man took out his card and swiped to pay the \$32.64 that flashed on the small blue screen.

The man grabbed his bag and shouted, “Have a nice day, sir!”

Rick rolled his eyes and weakly waved at him. He rested one fist against his face and snagged his phone from his jean pocket with the other. He noticed that he had five minutes left of his nine hour shift. His eyes lit up and nearly tripped as he was exiting the checkout area.

He grabbed his car keys from his pocket and started going through the clock-out process on his phone. He pressed the red clock button to clock out of his shift and walked swiftly to the parking lot.

He drove off in his black Subaru Impreza and arrived at his small brown house that resided 15 minutes away from his job. He turned off the ignition, walked out of the car and opened the front door. Cameron, his husband, stood right in front of Rick which caught him off guard.

“Jeez! You nearly gave me a heart attack!” Rick yelled.

Cameron folded his arms and frowned, “You didn’t see the message I sent you?”

Rick turned his phone on and did not even notice that Cameron sent him a message two hours ago. Cameron shook his head in disbelief as he walked past the entrance and into the kitchen.

“I was swamped at work,” Rick said as he passed a giant poster of himself in a red hat, mask and cape.

“I understand that, but what about on your break? You couldn’t say anything about one of your old friends passing away?” Cameron asked.

“Honestly, me and Teddy weren’t really that close. He was kind of annoying on set and acted like a brat,” Rick stated.

“I guess he got it from you,” Cameron said without thinking.

Rick stared at him blankly, “What?”

“All you ever care about is your time as ‘The Red Raven’ and how great it was to be the leading man, but news flash, that show has been over for decades! You’re a more than 50-year-old man who works a dull day job and is a part of the people. I thought that you were going to change.”

“That you would wake up in reality and realize that maybe being a part of the people can be a good thing. But now I see that you never left the spotlight,” Cameron explained.

He began walking out the front door but Rick chased after him.

“Where are you going?” Rick asked, helplessly, gripping onto his arm.

“I just need some time in reality, Rick. Something that you should do more often,” Cameron answered.

Rick let go of Cameron, and the door slammed right in his face. Tears began rolling down his face as he stood at the door, hoping he would come back. Five minutes later, Rick retreated to the living room and grabbed the newspaper from his couch.

The headline was in red and said, “Murder! Mystery! Action! Justice? Teddy Flowers, TV star, dies horrifically!” Those words began to haunt Rick’s mind once again as his eyes glossed through the story. He stopped in the middle of the description.

Teddy was bludgeoned with a wooden square block with the letter “A” painted on it. This was how a character died in “The Red Raven.” Could it just be a coincidence?

*To be continued...*

# Exploring the disheartening decline of local newspapers

## *Why small newspapers cannot be replaced*

**By Sydney Allabaugh**  
Opinion Editor

The days of newspapers as we have known them may be limited as more and more people ditch print and rely on digital platforms for news. Although television news and social media are useful, they cannot fill the void local newspapers are starting to leave behind.

Newspapers have been struggling to compete with digital and TV news for quite some time. According to a Pew Research Center survey, only 5 percent of Americans prefer to get their news from newspapers compared to the 52 percent who prefer digital platforms and the 35 percent who prefer TV news.

One reason for this is that digital news sources may be more convenient and cost-effective as many online publications and social media sources offer free articles, whereas newspapers charge a subscription fee for print copies. People are less willing to pay for a service they can find elsewhere more conveniently and for free.

Since bigger audiences are more interested in getting their news from digital platforms and TV, advertisers are more interested in purchasing online and TV ads instead of newspaper advertisements. Newspapers are losing both advertising and subscription revenue, causing a decline in the newspaper industry.

This decline in revenue has led to small local newspapers cutting staff, consolidating or shutting down entirely. According to Pew Research Center, employment in local newspapers has dramatically declined from 74,410 employees in 2006 to 30,820 in 2020.

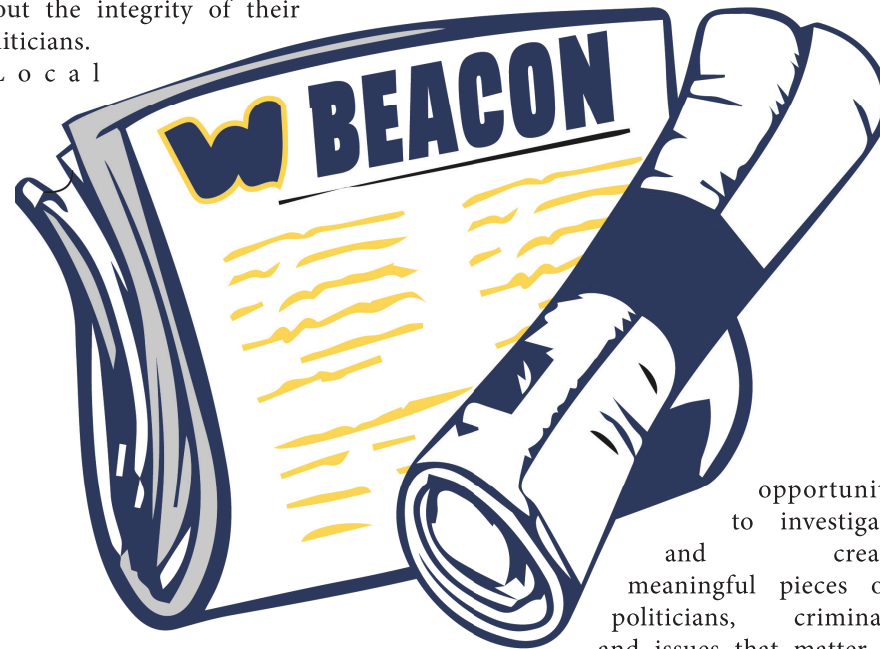
Just in the past three years, 360 newspapers have shut down in the United States, most of which were small dailies. Other small independent papers within a certain region are being bought out by large media companies and merged into a regional paper. When local newspapers are closing and consolidating and the number of newspaper employees is dwindling, we miss out on the unique,

localized coverage local newspapers have provided throughout the years.

When local newspapers were in their prime, they were able to provide the local community a service through investigative journalism on a small scale.

Years ago, there were enough journalists to act as watchdogs and cover all local government meetings to ensure that corruption was exposed. Now with limited staff covering vast areas, many are forced to pick and choose which meetings they can attend, which leads to constituents remaining less informed about the integrity of their politicians.

L o c a l



investigative journalists were also given the time and opportunity to investigate suspicious cases and bring the truth to the light. In some cases, journalists brought down criminals before police could.

Within our community, former Citizens' Voice reporter, Carol Crane, continued to investigate the murder of Robert Curley when law enforcement seemed to give up on the case and assisted in finding the killer who was his wife, Joann Curley. Former Patriot-News reporter Sara Ganim also broke the story involving Jerry Sandusky's sexual abuse of young boys.

Another investigative journalist, Julie K. Brown, assisted in creating major

developments in the Jeffrey Epstein case by exposing secret plea deals and platforming accusers in daily paper the Miami Herald.

"A lot of other local journalists aren't given the luxury of the time I had with this, even though they are the last line of defense against corruption, against taxpayer money being wasted," Brown said in an interview with The New York Times. "This has helped the public see we're not the enemy of the people."

As Brown mentioned, having an

opportunity to investigate and create meaningful pieces on politicians, criminals and issues that matter is something many journalists do not have anymore. A future in which a small number of remaining professional journalists only have time to cover a select few major stories increases the possibility that corruption and wrongdoings may never be brought to light.

Investigative journalism, like Brown mentioned, aids in creating a trusting relationship between the media and the people. Rebuilding these relationships is much needed currently as roughly two-thirds of Americans have little to no trust or confidence in newspapers, TV and radio, according to a Gallup poll.

Besides investigative work and watchdog journalism, local newspapers

also provide important information about small towns and the residents that live within them. In small town dailies, it's common to see articles about the high school sports teams, obituaries of local residents and stories about local businesses.

If newspapers continue to lay off staff, close their doors and consolidate into regional papers, we will see small town residents less and less to make room for the major stories within the region. This prevents us from remaining informed of and connected with the fellow people within our community.

Although some may argue that this type of content can easily be replicated online, I would argue that in-depth coverage of these local topics is unique to newspaper journalists. TV and online news commonly do not go into the same amount of depth as newspapers and cover regional or even statewide and national stories instead of local ones.

Luckily, we have yet to see local news disappear in our community. Wilkes-Barre is one of the last small cities with two independent newspapers: The Times Leader and The Citizens' Voice. Recently, however, The Citizens' Voice, along with other papers within our region including The Times-Tribune, the Republican Herald and The Standard-Speaker, have been purchased by one of the largest media groups in the country MediaNews Group, according to WVIA.

Since this purchase is still recent, we do not know how new ownership will change news coverage within our local community, but hopefully, our local papers will still be able to produce localized content.

As time goes on, it will be interesting to see the fate of small town newspapers. Trends show that they will continue to close their doors and dwindle in staff numbers, making them limited in what they can cover. This is a shame as local newspapers offer unique services, whether it be local coverage or investigative journalism, that ensure our local communities remain informed.

Graphic/Lara Mullen



# Why “The Eras Tour: Concert Film” is the moment

By **Samara Carey**  
Contributing Writer

Anybody who is anybody knows how huge and in-the-moment Taylor Swift is right now. Even if you are not a fan of her, I can almost guarantee that you can name at least a dozen songs, whether they were released in 2006 more in the present day.

This summer, Swift took North America by storm with her debut of “The Eras Tour,” a three-hour-long concert that uniquely displays each of her 10 albums and plays her biggest hits from each era. That said, it is no surprise that many Gen Z and millennials took this idea and ran with it.

It blew up so much that tickets sold out even prior to the general sale being announced. As a result of this, tickets became impossible to get and scammers and resellers were in full swing to make a quick buck off a “Swiftie” who was desperate to see their favorite singer live in concert.

To make light of a very disheartening situation, Swifties across the country decided to take matters into their own hands and make various activities to help those who were not able to get tickets.

One fan on X, formerly known as Twitter, decided to make their own version of fantasy football and called it Swiftball. Swiftball was used during each show in which fans would try to predict Swift’s outfits, her surprise songs, special guests and different mishaps that would happen during each night.

Another tradition that started this summer were the nightly live streams produced by fans inside the stadium for those watching from the outside.

Lastly, fans who were not able to purchase tickets for their hometown shows started an event labeled “Taylorgating,” a spin on tailgating, in which they would trade friendship bracelets, buy tour merch and listen to the concert outside the stadium despite not being able to fully experience the actual show.

As the North American leg of the tour ends, Swift recently announced an “Eras

Tour” movie, in which fans can watch a recording of the full show, in an AMC theater of their choice. Swift has always released live recordings of each of her tours, except for “The Red Tour” due to it having a problematic director, but this has proven to be different than others.

In years past, Swift’s tour documentaries have been released on either iTunes or Apple Music to later be released on YouTube after a few months

thus far, I would like to share that I have been known as “The Taylor Swift Girl,” since my early adolescence. I have seen Taylor twice on her past tours, and I have participated in every activity listed above, as I fell victim to becoming one of the people who were unfortunate enough to not see Swift on her recent tour.

I have adored Taylor for years and will always defend her and her

West’s character, she was viewed as a “snake” and was forced to go into hiding for three years.

After the Kayne West fiasco, Swift has stated multiple times that she felt like her career was over and that she feared no one would pay attention to her in a few years, so she was holding onto her career as close as possible.

That was until the pandemic hit and Swift released her eighth studio album, “folklore.” After this release, Swift’s career blew up faster than we were able to blink. Her songs, old and new, were trending on TikTok, and everyone became obsessed with loving Taylor Swift.

What Swift did next was quite possibly the best move she would ever make in her career. In 2021, Swift started re-recording and releasing her first six albums. Of course, she had no choice in doing so since she had her masters stolen from her, but this fortunately brought a new and fresh crowd to her music.

Since she had her own versions of her album, people were patiently waiting to see her next move, especially since she had announced her tenth studio album, “Midnights.”

Hence, her announcement of her long-awaited Eras Tour.

Since the hype around it was so heavily anticipated, Swift’s career was at an all-time high, even after she predicted her slow decline in the music industry.

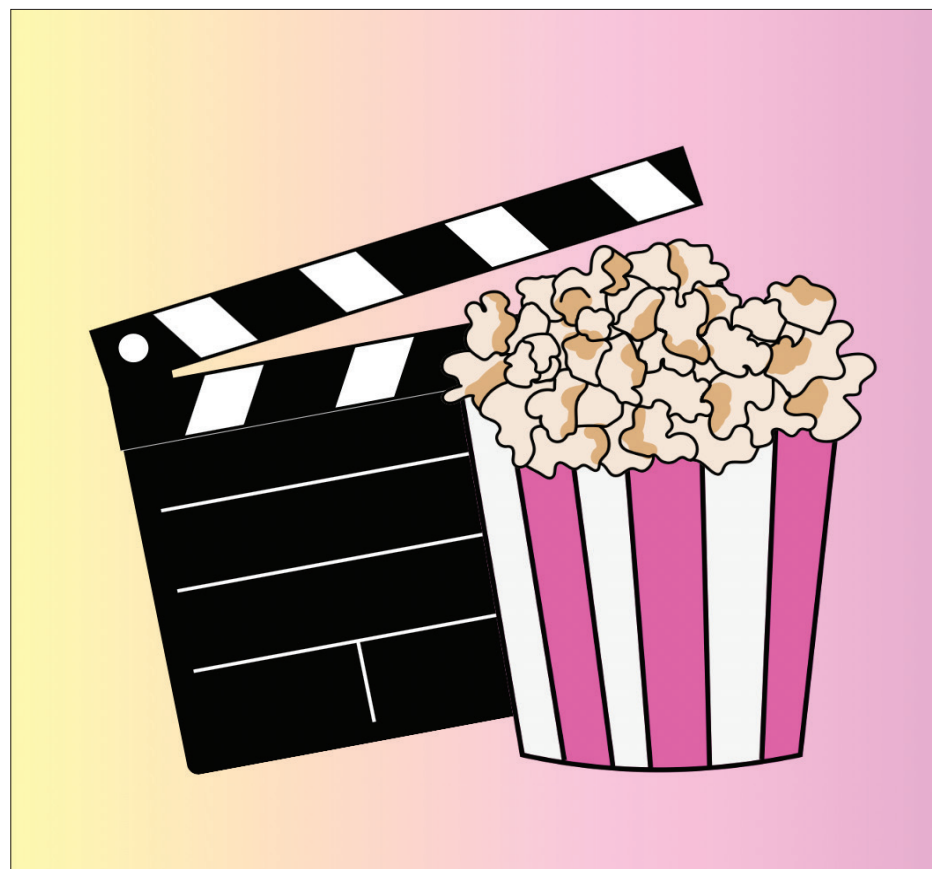
So, Swift did what any reasonable business person would do, and held on to every ounce of fame she was receiving. This was proven true after “The Eras Tour” movie was announced and box offices had the highest number of sales they have seen since “Spiderman, No Way Home.”

This proves that Taylor Swift’s fame will forever be growing, and she will forever be in the music industry and has subsequently changed it for the better.

“The Eras Tour” movie comes out on Oct. 13, and thousands of people have already bought their tickets a month in advance.

I will be there.

Will I see you?



Graphic/Sydney Allabaugh  
business decisions. Especially now, as I better understand the ins and outs of marketing and why her team has her doing the promotions she has been doing. One thing about Swift that you absolutely cannot argue with me about is how calculated she is.

She has been in the music industry since she was 16-years-old and has been criticized since the first time she stepped on stage. One example of this is when she almost got her career completely ripped from her hands by Kayne West and Kim Kardashian back in 2016. Due to claims Swift lied about

of it being released. The last tour, “The Reputation Stadium Tour,” was released on Netflix and it can be watched if you have a subscription.

Many will argue that this is simply a cash grab by Swift and her management to help promote the latest re-recording of her fifth studio album, “1989.” I would like to disagree and comment on the fact that this is definitely one of the smartest moves that she could have made now.

Before I continue, if you are wondering why I feel qualified enough to discuss Taylor Swift and her career

# The rise and fall of streaming services

## *The frustrating ways streaming has changed media consumption*

**By Shawn Carey**  
Contributing Writer

We live in an age of constant media consumption.

According to a recent Nielsen report, Americans spend over 11 hours, or nearly half of their day, interacting with digital media. This includes everything from television, movies, games, books, podcasts and music. More often than not, these pieces of entertainment are enjoyed through streaming services.

I am sure it is hard for a lot of us to imagine a time before streaming. Being able to watch our favorite shows and movies at the click of a button is not really

something we stop and think about. Nowadays, it is just a natural part of everyday life.

However, this was not always the case.

Before the turn of the millennium, it took quite a bit of effort to do what we now see as a simple task, such as watching a specific episode of a show. Instead of being able to search for it on your phone, you really had to hunt it down, whether that was by looking through a TV guide and catching it as a rerun or renting a physical tape from a video store.

Unless you knew exactly where to look, you were in for a journey.

When Netflix first released their online service in 2007, it came as no surprise that they were able to quickly build up a large subscriber base. For only \$6.99 a month, subscribers gained access to what seemed like an infinite amount of content, no quest required. Over the next few years, Netflix grew into an entertainment juggernaut.

Not only did their streaming library continue to expand, but they even

started to produce their own shows, many of which went on to be critically praised. Other services, such as Hulu and Amazon Prime Video, tried to compete with the giant, but they were only able to gain a fraction of the same success.

They were not failures, however. Both still provided services that their competitor did not have, such as next-day streaming of new episodes, leading to many subscribing to all three.

Streaming services continued to be a convenience for general audiences until 2020, which is the year I believe they started to do more harm than good.

As we all know, 2020 was a rough year for pretty much everything,

especially the entertainment industry. The pandemic shut down much of what kept Hollywood going; theaters were closed, TV and film sets were shut down and productions were suddenly halted. This caused large profit losses for many studios.

The same cannot be said for streaming, though. I was actually at an all-time high during this period. Studio executives took note of this, and a shared idea appeared in their minds. This was the start of the streaming wars. Instead of producing anything new, they instead found a way to sell older products. Disney Plus, Max, Paramount Plus, Peacock, AMC Plus and Apple TV were just some of the services born from this idea.

Now, let us get the first problem out of the way.

I just listed six streaming services. If we add on the ones I named earlier, we now have a total of nine. That is far too many. If you wanted to get the basic plan for all of them, you would have to pay \$61 a month or \$732 a year.

Now if we do the premium plans for all of them, that would be \$117 a month, which is an astonishing \$1,404 a year. If we add on the average cost of basic cable, which is an additional \$132, the bill is going to be \$239 a month. While it is not necessary to own every available streaming service, this highlights just how quickly the cost of all of them can add up.

Also, at this point, owning multiple is kind of needed if you want a diverse library of content. Instead of everything being on Netflix, it is now spread all over the place.

Let us say you wanted to watch the newest Marvel Cinematic Universe movie, you have to go to Disney Plus. Do you not have Disney Plus? That is okay, you can just watch the newest "South Park" special instead; you have been really meaning to check that out anyway. You go to Max, the self-proclaimed home of the series, and you do not see it.

Confused as ever, you do a quick Google search to see what the problem is, only to discover that there is nothing wrong. The special is just on Paramount Plus, a service you do not own. You once again have to go on an adventure just to find an episode.

Now you might say to yourself, "It still beats having to get a physical copy." I strongly disagree with this notion because at this point, it may be better to just own one.

Shows and movies are constantly bouncing around from one place to another. This is mainly due to copyright issues and exclusive deals.

As annoying as this is, it does get worse. For the longest time my favorite movie, "Spider-man: Enter the Spider-verse" was available on Netflix. I was

able to watch the movie an ungodly amount of times all thanks to Netflix, so picture my surprise when I found out the movie was going to be leaving the platform and there were no plans for it to appear anywhere else. This destroyed me.

This forced me to pick up a blu-ray of the movie, which I complained about at first but quickly discovered it was for the best. I now own the movie forever and I do not have to worry about it disappearing one day.

Not every piece of media has the luxury of getting a physical release, however. As of recently, many streaming or streaming original content projects funded by their respective platforms have been getting deleted.

This happened recently with the shows "Willow," "Black Beauty" and "Y: The Last Man" all being removed from Disney Plus due to them being labeled as tax write offs. These three shows never got a physical release meaning it is now impossible to support them legally.

I can only imagine how the people who worked on these projects feel,

seeing something they worked so hard on being erased without a second thought. The lack of respect for the creatives that work for these media giants is sickening to see.

So what does the future of streaming look

like? It is honestly hard to say. It is not going away anytime soon, but I do not think it will ever reach the same level of public approval that it once held. It still serves its original purpose as a simple way of letting people enjoy their favorite pieces of media, it is just not as easy or convenient as it once was.

Watching a simple show should not be this hard.

***"If you wanted to get the basic plan for all of them (Disney Plus, Max, Paramount Plus, Peacock, AMC Plus and Apple TV), you would have to pay \$61 a month or \$732 a year."***

***"The lack of respect for the creatives that work for these media giants is sickening to see."***

# Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Asst. Editor: [Adam.grundt@wilkes.edu](mailto:Adam.grundt@wilkes.edu)

## Marts Center gymnasium gets a new look over break

By Zach Paraway  
Contributing Writer

Wilkes Athletics had a busy summer, and the results are easy to see in the Arnaud C. Marts Center.

Since the end of the 2022-2023 school year, Wilkes joined a new conference, leaving the Middle Atlantic Conference after almost 70 years. It joined the Landmark Conference for all sports except men's and women's ice hockey.

It also updated two of its main athletic facilities on campus.

Both Schmidt Stadium and the Henry Gymnasium received new renovations. Schmidt received new turf while the gymnasium had a complete renovation. The Henry Gymnasium was named after Frank Henry, who is also the namesake for the student union building just a block away from the gym.

The building had not been changed since its construction and the new update has been appreciated. It included a new floor which has the university's updated logo and the new conference affiliation on it. Also changed was the lighting system, now supporting LEDs for a much brighter and fuller room.

The last things updated were the scoreboard and bleachers.

The scoreboard now sports a fully electronic look and the bleachers have been updated from wood to full on retractable plastic with metal rails. The renovations total nearly \$1.2 million.

The mens and womens volleyball team, basketball teams and the wrestling team are among the sports that play in the renovated space..

Photos Courtesy of Liz Keller



**TOP:** The Henry Gymnasium is named after Frank Henry, who is also the namesake for the Student Union Building on campus

**BOTTOM:** New bleachers have been installed as part of the gymnasium's complete renovation.



The Wilkes 'W' sits at center-court of the newly-renovated gymnasium.



# NFL: New and old faces to keep an eye on this season

**By Adam Grundt**  
Asst. Sports Editor

As many viewers see the start of the National Football League season as the unofficial start of the fall, there are many exciting storylines to keep an eye on as the season gets underway.

The defending Super Bowl Champion Kansas City Chiefs kicked off the season against the Detroit Lions to start Thursday Night Football on Sept. 7.

The Philadelphia Eagles are looking to repeat last season that ended in a Super Bowl appearance led by quarterback, Jalen Hurts. After signing a large contract in the offseason, Hurts is one of the favorites to win the league's most valuable player award. They opened their season against the New England Patriots in Foxborough, Mass. on Sept. 10.

Eagles' defensive back, Brandon Graham, reflected on last year's successes

"We could almost taste it," said Graham. "It was right there. I'll never forget this team. We worked our butt off. We will be back".

With the departure of former Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, the National Football Conference (NFC) North is the division to watch this season.

Many believe the Minnesota Vikings will have an easy path to the division title. However, the Detroit Lions and the Chicago Bears are on the come-up, and will certainly give a challenge to the Vikings when competing for the division crown.

Bears quarterback Justin Fields, is poised to have a break-out season after the team had the worst record in the NFL last season, and offseason acquisitions, such as D.J. Moore and Yannick Ngakoue, give the Bears a true shot at competing for the division crown. Because of this, the Bears were challenged right out of the gate when they opened their season at home against their biggest rival, the Green Bay Packers on Sept. 10.

Chicago Bears general manager, Ryan Poles, commented on the expectations of

their star quarterback.

"Just continue to improve," Poles said. "(We) want those sack numbers to come down, interceptions to come down, make good reads, protect himself, just see him take that next step."

Another division to keep an eye on will be the NFC South.

The Jacksonville Jaguars are looking to appear in the playoffs while being led by quarterback Trevor Lawrence, while two new franchise faces are looking to make an impression on the league in their first seasons with their teams. C.J. Stroud is looking to take the reigns as the leader of the offense for the Houston Texans, while Anthony Richardson is looking to do the same in Indianapolis with the Colts.

The first Sunday Night Football game on Sept. 10, was a heated NFC East division rivalry matchup between the New York Giants and the Dallas Cowboys. Giants quarterback, Daniel Jones, is looking to jump into the category of elite quarterbacks in the league this season while Cowboys quarterback, Dak Prescott, looks to have a fully healthy season in 2023, which has been a struggle for him throughout his career.

"I don't desire to be the number one offense in the league, I want to be the number one team in the league with the number of wins and the championship," said Cowboys head coach Mike McCarthy when asked about the team's expectations for the upcoming season. "If we have to give up some production and take care of the ball better to get that, then that's what we'll do."

Monday Night Football kicked off on Sept. 11 when the Buffalo Bills took on the New York Jets in a clash of two superstar quarterbacks.

Future hall-of-fame quarterback Aaron Rodgers looked to make a memorable first impression in his inaugural game with his new team after an already storied career with the Green Bay Packers. Bills quarterback Josh Allen looked to lead his

team to a more promising season in 2023, as their season ended last year with a loss in the NFC Divisional round against the Cincinnati Bengals.

The 2023 season, as always, will be filled

with excitement with many storylines to be built off as the year progresses. Many new faces in the league, as well as some familiar ones, will be worth keeping an eye on throughout the year.

THE BEACON

**SPORTS IS  
LOOKING FOR WRITERS**



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OR PHOTOGRAPHING?**

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# Fall Sports: The start of the volleyball and soccer season

**By Samantha Mullen**  
Contributing Writer

With Fall sports already underway, many student athletes are excited about how their seasons will go.

This year the university is gearing up for a new journey in the Landmark Conference. The shift to a different conference has brought fresh energy into the athletic department with teams facing new competition when it comes to conference play.

Having some new competition has many athletes and coaches excited to see what this first year in the conference has to offer.

Men's soccer is off with a 1-2 start but Coach Michael Piranian is excited to compete in the Landmark this season.

Coach Piranian hopes the team will "come in with the right mindset and determination to prove [they] are going to be a tough program to compete with on a yearly basis."

The team's upcoming game this week is home against Rutgers-Camden at 1 p.m. on Sept. 16.

Women's Volleyball is already off with

a great start of wins against Keystone College and Penn State Hazleton.

Coach Joseph Czopek feels very confident in his players this year and stated that the team "is preparing hard in practice to be competitive in the new conference."

Additionally, many of the teams within the Landmark Conference have gone into the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) tournament so the competition will be very strong.

Coach Czopek also expressed how the team will be doing overnight stays which the team has not done since before the pandemic.

To end the week, the team will travel to New Jersey on Sept. 17 to play Penn State Harrisburg, 2 p.m. and Rutgers-Camden, 4 p.m.

Entering a new conference can be a bit nerve racking for many of the athletes. Luckily, there is still some familiarity before conference play starts as many of the teams will be playing teams from within the Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) Freedom conference such as Delaware Valley College, Misericordia University and King's College.



Graphic/Morgan Rich

*The Beacon is looking for sports writers for the  
Fall 2023 semester*

**If you are interested in sports writing,  
editing, photography or graphics contact  
Adam Grundt at [adam.grundt@wilkes.edu](mailto:adam.grundt@wilkes.edu)**

# Athlete of the Week

## Xavier Guerreiro

### Junior Soccer Center Midfield

#### **The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week**

Guerreiro was chosen as our Athlete of the Week (AOTW) after his performance during the soccer team's season opener at Penn State Berks.

Guerreiro scored two crucial goals on Sept. 1 to help lead the Colonels over Penn State Berks 6-0

**Major:** Computer science

**Hometown:** Newtown, Pa.

**High School:** Council Rock North High School

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

*My favorite sports memory from my time as a Colonel was beating Lycoming 4-1 at home my first-year. It was one of the most exciting games of my whole career.*

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

*My favorite professional sports team is Manchester United.*

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

*My favorite thing to do outside of sports is hang out with my friends or be in nature.*

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

*My favorite part of being an athlete here at Wilkes is having a brotherhood with my teammates.*

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

*My go-to sports movie is "Remember The Titans."*

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

*I would have wanted to play basketball.*

**What has been your favorite sports memory overall?**

*My favorite sports memory is winning Nationals with my club team, Princeton FC, in 2018.*

**What is your favorite post-game meal?**

*My favorite post-game meal is steak and potatoes.*

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

*I am grateful to be selected as the Athlete of the Week because my team helped me achieve this honor.*

The Beacon/Jess Fellerman

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

# WILKES FOOTBALL

ALL GAMES BEGIN AT NOON UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

9/2

KING'S COLLEGE\*

HOME

9/9

RENSSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

AWAY

9/16

SUNY BROCKPORT

HOME

9/23\*

ST. JOHN FISHER UNIVERSITY

AWAY

9/30

JUNIATA COLLEGE\*\*

HOME

10/7

LYCOMING COLLEGE

AWAY

10/14

KEYSTONE COLLEGE

HOME

10/21\*\*

SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY

AWAY

11/4

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA\*\*\*

HOME

11/11

MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY

AWAY

\*MAYOR'S CUP  
\*\*HOMECOMING  
\*\*\*SENIOR DAY

\*4 PM @ ST. JOHN  
\*\*1 PM @ SUSQUEHANNA

## Door's open!

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

- Writers
- Photographers
- Designers
- Social media managers
- Distribution managers
- Advertising managers

*...and more!*

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