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Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

120th State House hosted virtual forum

By Maddy Kinard
Staff Writer

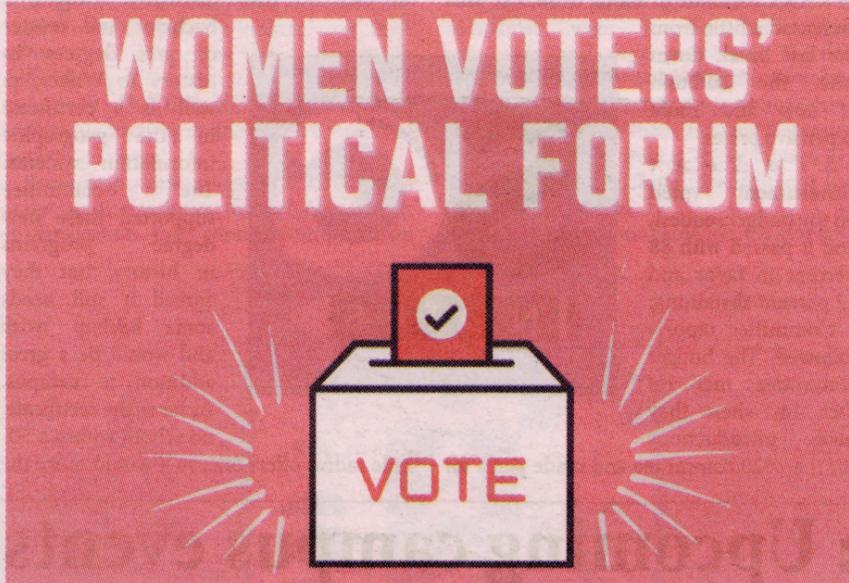
The 120th State House District candidate forum sponsored by the League of Women Voters' occurred via Zoom on Oct. 13. This event featured current Pennsylvania State Representative Aaron Kauffer, republican, and running State Representative Joanna Bryn Smith, democrat.

Dr. Michelle Anthony, vice president of the League of Women Voters, gave a brief introductory statement, in which she thanked the candidates and attendees and hoped listeners would take away valuable information to aid them in their electoral decisions on Nov. 3.

"Thank you to both candidates for agreeing to meet with us tonight to share their thoughts and positions on a variety of issues that face the 120 House District," said Anthony. "Most importantly, thank you for being here. You are the reason we're doing this forum. We are hoping that the information you glean from tonight's event will assist you in making informed voting decisions on election day or on your mail-in ballot."

Attorney and League member Maureen Collins was the moderator and quickly went over the format of the meeting. It was made clear that the meeting was not meant to be argumentative or result in a debate.

"This is a forum, and not a debate, designed so that you can learn more about the candidate's positions that are important to their constituents," said Collins.



Candidates were allowed two minutes to introduce themselves and make an opening statement. Following opening statements, both candidates were prompted with questions, alternating who answered first and would be given two minutes to respond to each question.

The questions, which were not shared with the candidates prior to the forum, were a compilation of those designed by board members of the league, along with submissions by audience members when they registered for the event.

Kauffer opened the forum with his opening statement, thanking everyone who made the forum possible and those who have sponsored and supported him while touching on his ability to be bipartisan.

"I pride myself in Harrisburg and throughout our community by being a bipartisan leader," said Kauffer. "A lot of people say it, but very few act upon it. In my time in Harrisburg, I have really established myself as that type of leader. I've turned my

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Be the Match encourages students to become donors

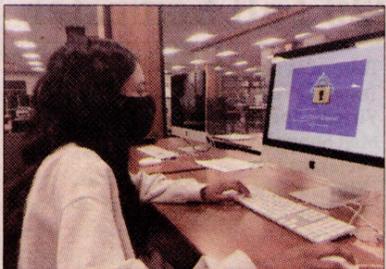
By Maria DiBuo
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

One in 430 donors is a match to an individual needing a blood stem cell or bone marrow donation — and that one individual may be a Wilkes student, according to information from Be the Match, a global organization dedicated to finding matches for those in need of life-saving transplants, as well as furthering research surrounding them.

On campus this past week, a Be the Match event was held virtually in hopes of finding a match for those who are critically in need of a donor, in addition to adding to the registry of eligible donors across the world.

The event was held through the Office of Civic Engagement and Nursing Student Organization on campus and organized by Megan Boone Valkenberg, Civic Engagement coordinator and Jess Turnitza, a junior nursing student. For Turnitza, her motivation to bring the event to campus

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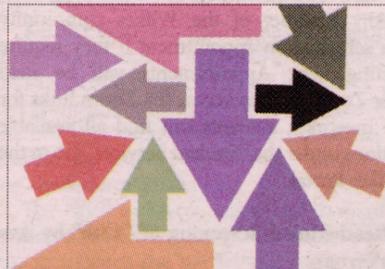
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News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor: Sean.Schmoyer@wilkes.edu

Student Government: Oct. 14 weekly meeting notes

By Maddy Kinard
Staff Writer

Student Government held its seventh virtual meeting on Oct. 14, in which all topics were internal and focused on budget requests for the main two upcoming events: Homecoming and the Fall Event.

To start, there was a final restating of the overview for Homecoming, along with how much everything would cost. On Oct. 17, a catered dinner was served and a court ceremony followed. Dancing continued until after the ceremony ended. The event was capped at 100 people. For dancing, they booked a DJ who offered a \$1,000 discount. In total, the event cost \$13,000.

A voting phase commenced and the budget request passed with 97 percent in favor and three percent abstained from voting.

Next, the Fall Event's price breakdown was discussed. The event, running from Oct. 19 to Oct. 23, came to a total of \$8,500. This increased a little from the last break down with the addition of new and more expensive prizes.

Student Government voted on the budget request, and it passed with 88 percent in favor and 12 percent abstaining.

Committee reports followed. The budget committee met on Oct. 14, where they held introductions

for the 2020 committee and made plans for

future meetings. The academic planning committee met and discussed two proposals on Oct. 9. They discussed bringing a bachelor and master of arts degrees in history to Wilkes, as well as a certificate in the geographic information systems. The committee supported these new degree programs in history, but they agreed it still needs some backup work and would be a great addition to campus. As far as the certificate, no school within a 50-mile radius offers one, so it would make the

university more marketable to students.

Commuter Council will be holding a best car costume contest over Instagram on Oct. 26. The winner will receive an automatic car starter, and second and third will receive gas gift cards.

Moreover, the Multicultural Student Coalition is holding several upcoming events. On Nov. 6, they will host a trivia night and on Nov. 16, they are hosting a paint and sip. Paintings will be of prominent black figures.

In closing, Student Government will meet again next week to discuss more upcoming events and the bringing of a bookstore back to campus.



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Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Sara Ross

Taste of Wilkes 2020: Home Edition
The Taste of Wilkes Home Edition is a virtual fundraising event taking place from Nov. 2 to 6. This event allows members of the campus community to submit their favorite recipes to be included in a cookbook. It will come in a physical book and a PDF version. There will also be a virtual gift basket auction. Chefs are allowed to participate virtually. They can submit their favorite recipe for inclusion in the cookbook, create a unique name for their dish and provide a short story about why the dish is special to them. All proceeds from the event will go toward the Wilkes United Way campaign.

Register for Winter Intersession Classes
Students can earn credits over winter break by scheduling online courses. This is helpful for those who want to catch up on missed classes, get ahead in their studies or lighten their course load for the spring. They are held in three- to five-week sessions that start Dec. 7, and tuition is \$530 per credit.

If interested in signing up for an online class, make an appointment with your advisor,

and visit www.wilkes.edu/winter to view the course schedule. Registration opens at 10 p.m. on Oct. 25.

Writing Center Consultations
Students who are looking to improve their writing or need assistance with an upcoming paper or essay can seek guidance from the Writing Center, which is located on the bottom floor of the Farley Library. However, with the transition online, the center is now hosting virtual drop-in hours from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Any member of the Wilkes community can schedule an appointment if they require writing help. Appointments will be held over Zoom, and to access the Zoom links for the meetings, students can find all available options under the "Student Services" tab in the Wilkes Portal.

Rescheduled Screening of "13th" by Ava DuVernay
The screening of the "13th," a documentary by filmmaker Ava DuVernay, was originally scheduled for Oct. 15 but has been postponed until Oct. 28. This film explores the history of racial inequality among African Americans in

the United States by focusing on the nation's prisons. After the film, there will be a panel discussion hosted by Dr. Helen Davis who is part of the Wilkes English Department on campus.

To register for the screening, contact Civic Engagement Coordinator Megan Boone at megan.boone@wilkes.edu.

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Want your event featured in the calendar?
Email: TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu

Internship and Career Fair held virtually for first time

By Sara Ross
Asst. News Editor

The Center for Career Development and Internships hosted its first virtual Internship and Career Fair on Oct. 15, which allowed Wilkes students to find internship opportunities and connect with potential employers through the Handshake application.

Starting in Fall 2006, the Internship and Career Fair has been an important event on campus. During its first year, around 50 companies attended along with only 120 students, and it was held in the Henry Student Center ballroom. In 2016, it moved to University Center on Main, where it has continued to be held during the fall and spring semesters.

This year, however, due to COVID-19 guidelines, it shifted gears and went completely online. Director of the Internships and Parent Programs Sharon Castano has been involved with the event from its beginning and is one of its lead planners. She revealed more about the transition to a virtual fair and how they marketed the event to students.

"We tried to do more with online marketing, including promoting it on our Instagram page @wilkesinterns," said Castano. "I also introduced it to the students in my personal professional development classes and put it out on the Wilkes Today emails."

Career and Development Intern Ashlee Przywara, a junior and marketing major at Wilkes and a past participant in the internship and career fair, worked alongside Castano to help promote the fair. Przywara was responsible for creating posts on social media. She even assisted with reaching out

to local companies to participate in the event, such as Benco Dental and LSEO.

"Because of the fair, I came across internship opportunities at Benco Dental and LSEO," said Przywara. "They were both great experiences that allowed me to grow professionally, which made me glad that we were still able to host it. This way, other students could find internships that best suited them."

Career Development Coordinator Lisa Mulvey worked with Castano as well to prepare students for the fair by looking over their resumes and sharpening their interviewing skills. On top of those responsibilities, Mulvey spent most of her time doing all the technical work behind setting up the fair, so it would be ready to go virtual.

According to Castano, students participated in the fair by registering through Handshake, an application that connects students on

college campuses with open internships or entry-level job positions.

Through Handshake, those participating could sign-up for multiple sessions – single and group – by utilizing the app's own video conferencing capabilities. The individual sessions lasted about 10 minutes and were more like interviews, while the groups were around 30, and they gave students information about the opportunities available at their company.

While less than previous years, 55 companies were in attendance. The companies and organizations at the fair provided students with chances to locate positions across a broad range of disciplines and studies. A few of them included Geisinger, Pennsylvania State Police, UGI Utilities, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Enterprise Holdings and Proctor and Gamble.

In addition, Castano provided ideas for how

students could adjust to the virtual format and insisted that it was a great opportunity for them to get creative.

"With this fair's setting, it was OK to have your resume out in front of you to glance at, especially if you needed reminders about talking points. You could have even placed sticky notes right on your computer screen to remind yourself to smile or to sit up straight," explained Castano.

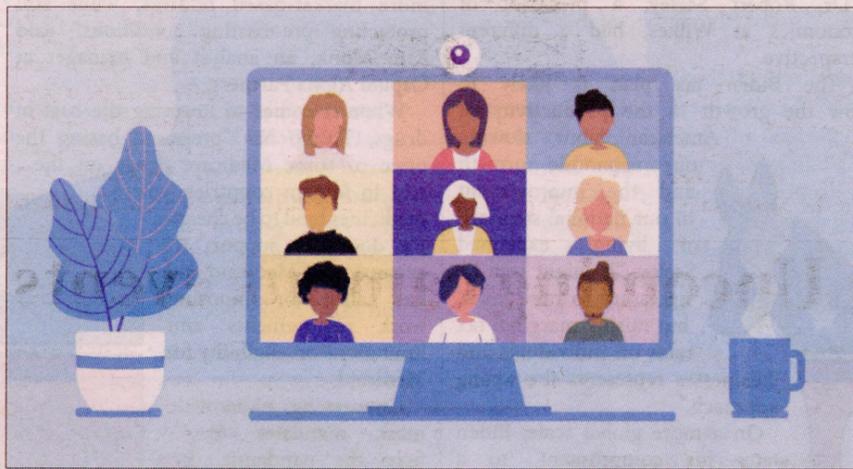
One of the students who attended the fair was junior accounting and corporate finance major Jessica Smith. She got involved with the event because it was a requirement for her personal and professional development course. Regardless, she found it to be quite resourceful and enjoyed interacting through the virtual sessions.

"I met with Kearney & Company, a CPA firm that provides financial services exclusively to the Federal Government, through one of their group sessions, and I had such a positive meeting," said Smith.

Smith discussed that she got much out of the fair and thinks the event went as smoothly as it could under the circumstances, even though it was not face-to-face. She leaves one final thought about fair and claims how vital it is to network and explore new opportunities, especially now during COVID-19 and how it has impacted the job market.

"I think it is so important to attend the career fair, even if it is virtual, because it shows employers your ability to adapt in a changing recruitment atmosphere and that you are driven despite the many challenges our world currently presents," revealed Smith.

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Graphic by Sara Ross



VOTERS' FORUM, from front

expertise and seniority into results, getting major pieces of legislation accomplished and being able to work with both sides to do that," said Kauffer.

Smith said her opening statement, touching on how her connection to the community will make her a good representative of the 120th State House District.

"I am running to be your next state representative because I was born here, I was raised here and I continue to live here," said Smith. "I've been involved in this community for my entire life, and I love it. My parents were both union members that instilled in me the values of hard work and honesty, the values of this community. I am qualified to represent this community because I've been where you are. I am where you are."

Once opening statements were over, Collins prompted Kauffer with the first question.

Collins asked, "Besides COVID-19, what do you consider the district's greatest challenge, and what do you plan to do to overcome this challenge?"

In Kauffer's response, he stated that coming out of COVID-19, the biggest issue is going to be the return economically and the job impact that will occur in the area. He went on to touch on how he's led on the topic of property tax reform, putting forward legislation about manufacturing and using our natural resources to develop good-paying jobs in Luzerne County.

Smith responded with how Pennsylvania once was a model of how to slow the spread of COVID-19 but has become stuck in a cycle of start and stop, upon disregarding regulations, that has ultimately negatively impacted small businesses.

She believes that the quicker the state is able to get a handle on the pandemic at hand, the less it will lose.

The second question began with Smith

regarding her position on a severance tax on natural gas extraction in Pennsylvania.

"We absolutely need a severance tax," said Smith. "We are the only natural gas state that does not have a severance tax and, in fact, the severance tax would be a huge part of a new funding for education and of helping us with property taxes."

Kauffer followed, stating that he supported donating 50 million in PPE to first responders in March and received money for hazard pay for front-line responders. He also stated that he has long supported an extraction tax on natural gas and has voted for it while serving on the finance committee.

The third question was asked to Kauffer, which considered what Pennsylvania should do to support the hardest-hit industries by COVID-19.

"One of the hardest-hit sectors has been our restaurant and bar industry, and I'm proud to have sponsored a bill, where we still have a billion dollars left...that needs

to be allocated by the end of the year...that would provide for a \$25,000 grant to each and every small mom and pop bar all across the commonwealth," said Kauffer.

Smith agreed how difficult it is for the restaurant industry because she, too, used to work in one. She stated that the important thing to do is to advocate for federal government funds and state funds to help small businesses.

The forum continued with eight more questions regarding the well being of the district, and each stated they would do their best or have been doing their best to ensure the best life possible for their residents.

To find and locate more information before the upcoming election for Pennsylvania House of Representatives District 120, go to https://ballotpedia.org/Pennsylvania_House_of_Representatives_District_120.

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An overview: Biden's versus President Trump's policies

By Genny Frederick
News Staff Writer

Through debates and ads, the citizens of the United States have heard plenty about Joe Biden's policies, but a thorough understanding of his policies is necessary for an educated vote on Nov. 4.

In regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, Biden plans to "ensure all Americans have access to regular, reliable, and free testing" and also plans to provide personal protective equipment to citizens by producing these items in the country. Looking forward to treatments and vaccines, he is creating a plan to distribute these resources equitably.

He also will encourage governors and mayors to implement mask mandates and social distancing measures, as supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In an article published by the CDC at the beginning of October, it was found that "mitigation measures mandated through public policy can effectively increase social distancing and wearing masks has prevented transmission of SARS-CoV-2."

Health care for all, "regardless of gender, race, income, sexual orientation or zip code" is the basis of Biden's healthcare plan. He plans to achieve this by protecting the Affordable Care Act and building upon it "by giving Americans more choice, reducing healthcare costs and making our health care system less complex to navigate."

Biden has three different policies addressing the environment. They involve the development of sustainable infrastructure, a clean energy future and plans focusing on climate change and environmental justice.

"I think it is extremely important because our infrastructure currently isn't built up to withstand climate change, and we're facing millions, potentially billions, of dollars in damages to our infrastructure," Colin Ahrensfield, a senior double major in earth and environmental science and geology.

Colonel Mark Kaster, a professor in the EES department, said, "I've read the counterpoint that going a 'green way' is too costly. The problem is, if we don't take actions today that consider the impacts on our environment, the costs will become even greater to mitigate and repair the impacts."

Along with climate change plans, tax

plans between the two candidates are quite different.

The basis of Biden's plan includes raising the corporate tax, requiring a minimum tax on all foreign earnings, imposing a tax penalty on corporations that ship jobs overseas, implementing a 15 percent minimum tax on book income, raising individual income and asking those who make more than \$1 million to pay the same rate on investments as they do on their wages, as well as providing tax relief for working families.

In short, Biden plans to tax corporations and the wealthy and provide tax relief for working families.

An independent study done by AEI, the American Enterprise Institute, found that Biden's plan "would raise federal revenue by \$2.8 trillion over the next decade."

Dr. Robert Seeley, a professor of economics at Wilkes, had a different perspective.

"The Biden tax plan is likely to slow the growth in the productivity of American labor, slowing our economic growth and the improvement in our national standard of living," explained Seeley. "It might well be necessary to raise taxes, but raising marginal tax rates on individuals and businesses represents the wrong approach."

On a more global scale, Biden states his commitment "to a fair and humane immigration system" while also "modernizing America's immigration system."

Biden aims to revoke the current administration's barriers to seeking asylum as well as to provide a clear path toward citizenship, reverse the policy of separating families at the borders and move humanitarian organizations to the border to assist immigrants.

Additionally, he plans to build partnerships with El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to address the "underlying violence, instability, and lack of opportunity" which draws asylum seekers to U.S. borders.

Biden left his town hall meeting on Oct. 15 with one final impression: "I'm running as a proud Democrat, but if I get elected I'm going to be an American president."



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By Anna Culver
Staff Writer

President Donald Trump is running for reelection this November. He has detailed his plans for the upcoming election and revealed what steps he already has taken as president with several different areas of policy.

According to a Reuters article, Trump has not proposed a comprehensive plan to deliver a "better, less-costly healthcare system." The Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare, has after many failed attempts by Republicans to repeal executive orders, and court rulings have undermined it.

"Trump has been convinced by the right-wing of the party that if they can somehow undo Obamacare, they can sweep in with more market-based reforms, while still protecting pre-existing conditions," said Kim Monk, an analyst and manager at Capital Alpha Partners.

When it comes to lowering the cost of drugs, Trump has "proposed basing the price of some Medicare drugs on the cost in foreign countries, where medicines tend to be cheaper." He does not support the expansion of Medicaid and has called for imposing work requirements and limitations on eligibility for Medicaid.

Concerning nationwide mask mandates to fight the pandemic, Trump opposes mask-wearing and has left it to state or local governments' discretion. Though he does support fast-tracking the development of a vaccine, health experts have said that Trump's proposed timeline is highly unlikely.

From the Department of Health and Human Services, the White House pledged by January 2021 to create 300 million doses of a vaccine in an aptly named initiative, "Operation Warp Speed."

Trump's push to crack down on illegal immigration has remained at the forefront of his agenda. Recently, he "dramatically curtailed immigration and travel into the United States during the coronavirus pandemic, arguing the steps were needed for health reasons and to protect jobs for U.S. workers," claimed another Reuters piece.

During Trump's 2016 campaign, he

advocated for a border wall between Mexico and the United States. His administration has completed 265 miles of the wall, intending to achieve 450 miles by the end of 2020.

According to a White House piece outlining his executive orders, Trump supports the continuation of a travel ban after signing an executive order in 2017 that banned travel from seven countries: Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

In 2017, Trump signed a significant overhaul of the United States tax code. He does not support increasing the corporate tax rate or capital gains taxes. Americans who were on unemployment due to COVID-19 were receiving a benefits package of \$600 per week as a federal unemployment insurance supplement. Trump has come out in support of not extending the \$600-per-month federal unemployment.

He advocated for more spending on infrastructure, like building roads, bridges and airports, but has not supported many environmental policies.

"Our carbon, our atmosphere, our - the level of environmental cleanliness is at its all-time best right now," stated Trump.

Trump removed the United States from the Paris Climate agreement after calling it too costly.

Dr. Andrew Miller, an associate professor of political science at Wilkes, emphasized why it is important for all to get involved in this year's election.

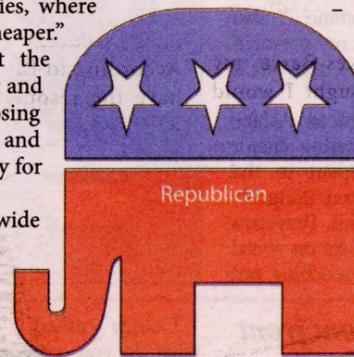
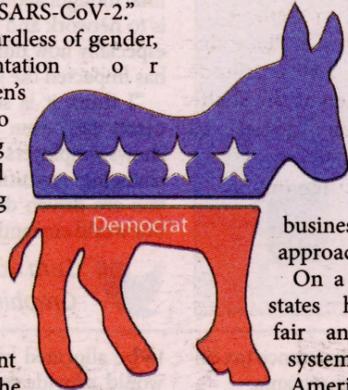
"More than ever, people need to have their voices heard. Young people, in particular, need to be heard by politicians. Voting is how you do that," said Miller.

Trump's policies on healthcare, COVID-19, immigration, taxes and the environment only get into a small portion of his policies.

For more information about what each presidential candidate's policies are, check out Allside's section on Trump versus Biden: <https://www.allsides.com/tags/trump-vs-biden?search=trump%20v%20biden#gsc.tab=0&gsc.q=trump%20v%20biden&gsc.page=1>.



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Graphics by Anna Culver



Homelessness, a woman's perspective from Ruth's Place

By Sara Ross
Asst. News Editor

Ruth's Place, an emergency homeless shelter for women, was established in 2003 as a volunteer project. At that time, groups of women would sleep on the steps of the United Methodist Church in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The church allowed them to stay in its basement during the winter months. When the church closed, the women needed somewhere else to turn. In 2009, Ruth's Place moved to its current location at 425 N. Pennsylvania Ave.

Today, Ruth's Place is dedicated to helping women like Kim Horton, age 52, get back on their feet. The resident has found refuge at the shelter after being evicted from her home. She takes pride in how she has overcome her struggles since arriving there.

Her story reveals the challenges of homelessness, but it also offers women like her the hope that they, too, can rise above regardless of situation or background.

"I have lived in Wilkes-Barre my whole life, and never thought I would be forced to leave my home, but I had a toxic family situation," said Horton, as

she began revealing how she found her way to Ruth's Place.

According to Horton, she has suffered abuse ever since she was a child. With little resources, Horton was forced to leave her home and all of her belongings behind.

When she first came to Ruth's Place, Horton had little money, as she had lost everything due to her divorce. She had trouble controlling her spending habits.

As part of her divorce, Horton said she signed over part of the 401K to her ex-husband to pay back what she had spent.

"What I didn't know until I signed the final papers was that I would not get any alimony payments. I went from having \$100 to \$400 a week to no money at all. That is how I got here," stated Horton.

Before finding her way to Ruth's Place, Horton had been at other domestic violence shelters in Wilkes-Barre.

Rainy Boyle, a Ruth's Place case manager, has been with Horton and described the situation of women who have trouble getting into shelters. According to Boyle, they do not always have the resources to locate a shelter, and they bounce around from house to house.

"Women can be couch surfing from location to location, sharing beds with others and may even go so far as to trade sex for a place to stay," explained Boyle.

Ruth's Place Co-Coordinator Crystal Kotlowski developed a close relationship with Horton and has been with the program for eight years. She has seen women with all different cases and discussed that homeless women are often the most vulnerable. Kotlowski mentioned they sustain higher rates of violence and experience more significant trauma prior to losing housing.

"Women can be homeless for the same reasons any man could be and even more so. It is a problem that is constantly evolving, as any cause for homelessness could come from anywhere," stated Kotlowski.

In a 2018 report from the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, domestic violence was the leading cause of homelessness among women.

Horton has been at Ruth's Place since this past August and has befriended many of the other women at the shelter. She has learned their stories and bonded with them. They can often be found walking all together outside the

complex.

The women of Ruth's Place are of various ages, and some have struggled with mental health issues, alcoholism and drug addiction, while others have suffered from domestic violence like Horton.

Other than the sense of community that Ruth's Place provides, Horton has made much progress because of the opportunities the shelter offers for their residents. They have helped her to build a resume, locate a job and find permanent housing. Horton has already interviewed for a position and found a possible apartment that will be ready for her once she leaves Ruth's Place.

Horton is thankful for the second chance she has been given, and once settled, she will reestablish her life.

Her story highlights that homelessness is a complex issue with many interconnected causes. However, shelters like Ruth's Place continue to make a difference by giving residents the support they need and the tools to succeed.



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Ruth's Place, an emergency homeless shelter for women, is located at a brick building on 425 N. Pennsylvania Ave in Wilkes-Barre.



Photos courtesy of Crystal Kotlowski

Ruth's Place is made up of only one floor. All residents have their own bed and living space, where they can keep all their personal belongings.

Movement to online testing raises student privacy concerns

By Hunter Fulmer
Staff Writer

Amid the coronavirus, multiple students find concern and trouble with their privacy when it comes to taking online exams.

COVID-19 has made the task of education a very challenging one. With many colleges shut down and students having to work from both home and on campus, the importance of moving some classes to an online format has become important due to the pandemic.

The movement to using electronic methods has been done to conduct classes, which includes taking quizzes and exams online with a computer. To help prevent cheating in online exams, multiple companies offer colleges and students with software to prevent cheating.

Software such as Respondus' "Lockdown Browser" use different kinds of technology to help prevent cheating. This includes disabling background programs, printing, accessing websites and screen capture on a computer. They can also use a student's microphone and webcam for extra monitoring, using an extension called "Respondus Monitor."

The use of the webcam and microphone extensions in some exams have made students question how their personal lives are being revealed.

Caleb Hudson, a sophomore and corporate finance major, discussed his concern with the use of a webcam.

"The camera that watches us ... that's the only thing that's kind of odd," said Hudson.

He then went on to say, "It's weird. I don't like people watching me like that. If they're going to watch me, it's better off in-person."

Respondus stated in a video on its website that students may be asked by their professors to show their identification to the webcam. A professor may also ask their student to take a video of their location and surroundings, including their desk space. While the student takes the exam, they

will be recorded until it is submitted. The footage is then saved and can be reviewed by the professor any time after the student has finished.

Anthony Gorey, a sophomore management major, said he has used Lockdown Browser for three of his classes. While he did not mind using the browser, he did find the camera aspect odd.

He described some of the materials he was asked to display for the webcam.

"The thing that was bizarre was that if

you use scratch paper, you got to show the camera the paper before you use it and after you use it to show you're not cheating. You got to have a picture of yourself, your school ID and another form of ID."

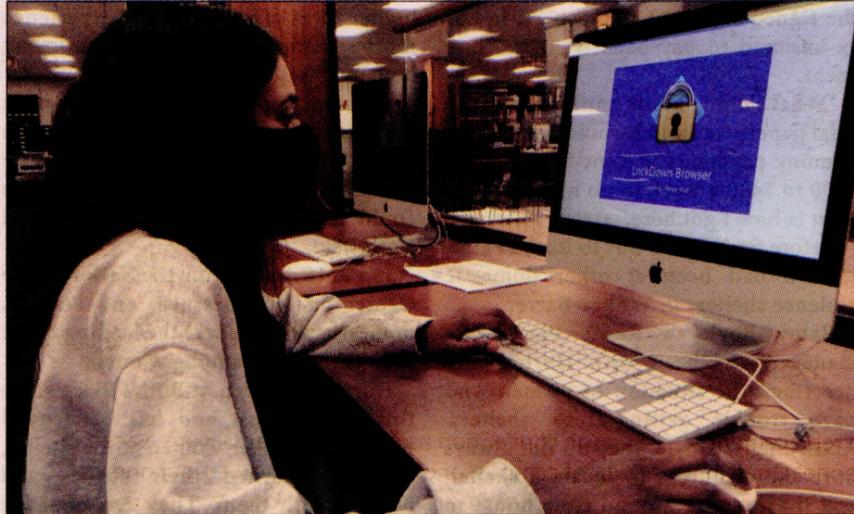
Several opinion-based posts on the internet have also shown concern about how Lockdown Browser is both spyware and malware. The posts say that the program makes changes and disables other processes in a computer, calling it malware and saying the software is designed poorly and creates function.

That being said, it is important to understand what those terms truly mean.

Dr. Anthony Kapolka, a computer science professor at Wilkes University, said that spyware and malware carry the implication that the program is doing something without the user knowing or giving consent to the software.

"If you take malware to be 'software that is specifically designed to disrupt, damage or gain unauthorized access to a computer system,' as Oxford defines it, then a program that causes problems because it is poorly written, but is not intentionally malicious, would not be considered malware."

More information on "Lockdown Browser" and "Respondus Monitor" can be found on the Respondus website.



The Beacon/Sara Ross

Junior biology major Priscilla Thomas sat down to launch Lockdown Browser before taking her exam on the first floor of the Farley Library.



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PROGRAMMING BOARD FREAK WEEK

Come!



Monday 10/26

Summoning Spirits Magician - Peter Bole
- A link will be mailed out for the 7 p.m. event

Tuesday 10/27

Costume Social Media Contest
- Prizes for first 20 that send photos & winners
- Categories are: Best Duo, Thriftiest, Scariest, Most Creative, Funniest
- Submissions Due Tuesday Night

Wednesday 10/28

Tricks & Treats Virtual Game Show
- A link will be mailed out for the 9 p.m. event
- Prizes for the winners

Thursday 10/29

Halloween Bingo
- A link will be mailed out for the 6 p.m. event

Friday 10/30

Giveaway
- Announcements TBA



LET'S PLAY.

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any restaurants that should be reviewed or artists to be featured? Contact life, arts and entertainment editor: Maria. DiBuo@wilkes.edu

Reinvented Homecoming dance celebrated outside

By Emily Cherkauskas
Life, Arts & Entertainment Staff Writer

Student Government hosted its annual homecoming dance, which was held on campus on Oct. 17. The dance was noticeably different this year, with adjustments made to adhere to social distancing guidelines.

Only 100 students were able to register to attend for free. The dance was held in the center quadrangle on the campus greenway inside tents. Tables and chairs were spaced apart, with up to four students being allowed at each table.

Later in the night, the homecoming king and queen were crowned. DeAndre Depass, a senior in management, was voted homecoming king, and Mia Barbieri, a pharmacy student, was voted homecoming queen.

In addition to the king and queen, this year also marked the crowning of a homecoming prince and princess, the titles of which were respectively given to undergraduate students Donald Balluo, a junior in communication studies, and Ariel Reed, a sophomore in communication studies.

 @wilkesbeacon
Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu

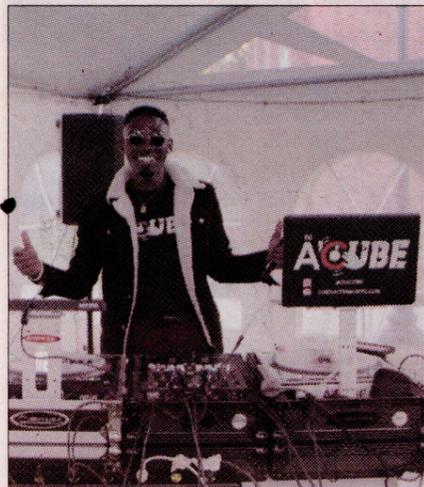


Photos: The Beacon/Emily Cherkauskas

In replacement of the a large convention hall, two large tents were placed on Fenner Quad in the center of campus, one for dining and an empty one for dancing. Pictured is the dining area for students, where only four seats were available at each table.



The change in scenery did not keep students from striking fun poses in their masks for photographs.



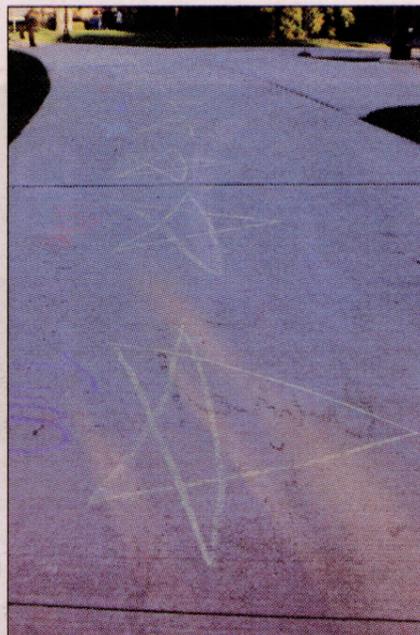
DJ A'Cube blasted his playlist of hot songs to keep the night full of energy for partygoers.



Although members of the Homecoming Court were there to indulge in the festivities and celebrate their nominations, they also helped to direct students to their designated dining tables.



The smaller event size allowed students to enjoy a close-knit and more personalized environment. Students were also able to enjoy snacks at their tables as they waited for the night to begin.



Every dance attendee was thought of in this minor decoration. A path of stars led students directly to the tents. For every student attending, a star was drawn with their name below it.

French Onion Soup: Moody foodie's take in the crockpot

By Anna Culver
Staff Writer

If you have access to a crockpot, this soup is perfect to have cooking all day and be ready just in time for when you get home.

Ingredients:

- 3 tablespoons butter
- 2 large yellow onions
- 1 1/2 teaspoons white sugar
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup cooking sherry – If this is hard to find, good alternatives are red wine vinegar or apple cider vinegar.
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt or to taste
- 1/8 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- Choice of bread
- Choice of cheese

Instructions:

Slice the onions into rings and separate them.

Heat the butter in a large pan over medium-high heat. Add the onions to the pan and cook until translucent.

Sprinkle the onions with sugar and reduce the heat to medium. Stir them constantly until onions are soft and browned, which will take about 30 minutes.

Stir in garlic until fragrant.

Stir in the sherry to dissolve the small bits that browned on the bottom of the pot. I used an apple cider vinegar to make this and liked it better than with the cooking sherry.

Transfer the onions into the slow cooker, and add in the rest of the ingredients.

Cook on high for four to six hours, or set on low and cook for eight to 10 hours.

Once completed, toast the bread. I recommend getting a thick French or Italian bread for this.

Pour the soup into a bowl, and place the toasted bread on top. Sprinkle your choice of cheese on top. I recommend using a bag of shredded cheese with mozzarella, Parmesan cheese and more. Enjoy!

Food Allergy: Dairy, gluten and wheat

Original recipe adapted from Allrecipes.



Anna.Culver@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver



The Beacon/Anna Culver

This French onion soup can be left aside all day while it cooks, and it can be ready for you the moment you get home after a long day.





BEACON BUMPS

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff adds a song to their Beacon Bumps playlist. Look below for this week's list of songs.

Kirsten Peters, Editor-in-Chief: [Run](#) - [George Strait](#)
Sean Schmoyer, News Editor: [Remind You](#) - [Andy Grammer](#)
Sara Ross, Asst. News Editor: [Dear No One](#) - [Tori Kelly](#)
Maria DiBuo, LA&E Editor: [Gates](#) - [The Mezingers](#)
Emily Cherkauskas, LA&E Staff Writer: [midnight love](#) - [girl in red](#)
Breanna Ebisch, Opinion Editor: [Wonder](#) - [Shawn Mendes](#)
Zarqua Ansari, Asst. Opinion Editor: [Black Milk](#) - [Massive Attack](#)

Jordan Daniel, Opinion Staff Writer: [bad idea](#) - [Ariana Grande](#)
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Ariel Reed, Co-Sports Editor: [Sanguine Paradise](#) - [Lil Uzi Vert](#)
Chris Gowarty, Sports Staff Writer: [Borderline](#) - [Tame Impala](#)
Mia Walker, Lead Designer: [GREECE](#) - [DJ Khaled ft. Drake](#)
Steffen Horwath, Staff Photographer: [Stunniin'](#) - [Curtis Waters](#)

Paint N' Sip prompts discussion on language, culture

By Judah Lyles
Staff Writer

This week's Global Coffee Hour came with a special twist for students.

Global Coffee Hour is an event sponsored by the Center for Global Education and Diversity and was organized by Cindy Peralta-Nin. Every Wednesday from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Savitz Lounge, students and staff can gather and have an open discussion about anything on their mind.

Moderated by Peralta-Nin, the Global Coffee Hour is meant not only to facilitate conversation amongst like-minded individuals, but to affirm an understanding of conflicting opinions of all those in attendance. While Coffee Hour is a rather serious event, it is supplemented by snacks, drinks and open doors.

This week, however, was a Paint N' Sip meant to give students "some time to relax and focus on something outside of class and COVID," according to Peralta-Nin. Keeping with pandemic precautions, there were a limited number of people allowed to be in the room, and masks were required.

For each person, coffee and snacks were provided, as well as an easel and paint materials. For some students, the event was a welcome reprieve from what can be considered an overwhelming period in the semester.

"It was very stress relieving and good to have in between midterms and finals,"

said senior Logan Biechy.

Inspiration materials were provided, such as paintings along the walls of the lounge and a vase that had been decorated prior to the event.

Tyler Mendoza, another Wilkes student in attendance, recommends the Global Coffee Hour to other students due to the unique nature of the event.

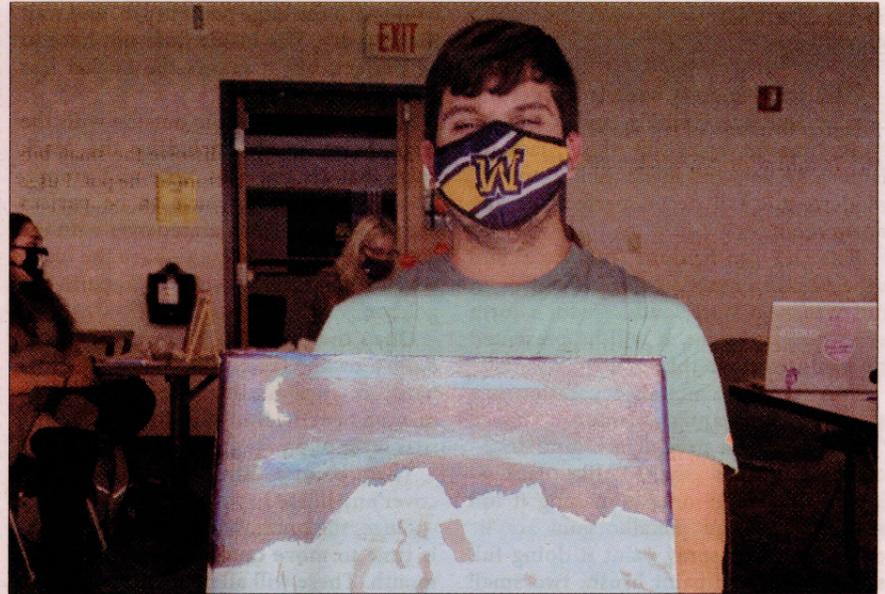
"It's a fun and great way to meet people on campus," said Mendoza.

While the discussion centered around light topics, once the event started to progress, a conversation arose about culture and the differing feelings between those in the room about learning about other cultures.

Many students in the discussion had seen and met some kind student participants and talked about their admiration for their closeness and interest in their culture.

Those in the room began to discuss how people of color generally feel the need to educate themselves about other cultures because they know what it's like to feel like an alien when they enter a room. If it's a matter of making one person feel more welcome when they enter a space, all were generally prepared to jump through those hoops.

The discussion then moved on to the topic of the importance of learning other languages and becoming educated about and accepting the habits of other cultures. American Sign Language, Urdu and Spanish were discussed. Spanish dialects were especially important in the



Photos: The Beacon/Judah Lyles

Tyler Mendoza displayed the artwork he created during last week's Paint N' Sip event.

discussion, as students expressed a desire to reach out to the students participating in Wilkes' Panamanian partnership and make them feel comfortable and more welcome around campus.

Students shared hardships and funny stories or talked about family. Many decided that the Coffee Hour was something that they would like to return to and tell others about.

Biechy, like others, would recommend this event to members of the Wilkes

community.

"It's a very welcoming group, and there's always fun and important discussions happening," said Biechy.

Most students found out about the event via word-of-mouth or the Wilkes Today email, so keep an eye out for the next event. No promises, but there might just be some pumpkin painting involved.



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During the Paint N' Sip event, students were able to paint many different forms of art, including the decorated vase seen here.



Although students were spaced out as per social distancing guidelines, they were still able to chat with one another.

Liz's Craft Column: Pinterest-worthy jack-o'-lanterns

By Liz Cherinka
Staff Writer

Plain trick-or-treat baskets are getting boring and are, frankly, out of style. It is time to spice up those jack-o'-lantern baskets and make them into fun, modern-chic fall decor, perfect for any dorm room.

This DIY can be done "full scale" and used beside a mantle or by a front door, but to make it more conducive for a dorm room or apartment, it will be presented on a mini-scale in this DIY.

This fun and chic fall decoration is a stacked jack-o'-lantern planter.

The materials needed are mini trick-or-treat buckets shaped like jack-o'-lanterns (or large ones if making it full scale), white and metallic gold acrylic paint (or white spray paint if doing full scale), one large paint brush, two small paint brushes, twine (or nautical rope for the full scale), rocks or dirt and fake flowers/Halloween floral additions.

This DIY is affordable, costing about \$10. The mini trick-or-treat buckets can be purchased at Amazon, and the other materials can be purchased at any craft store, such as Joann Fabrics or Michaels, and also on Amazon.

To start, obtain the mini jack-o'-lantern buckets, and rip the handles out of them. Now, paint the inside of the pumpkin

white with the large paint brush, and wait for it to dry. The inside does not have to be perfect, but it makes the bucket less transparent.

Next, paint the whole outside with the large paint brush, including the black parts that are the eyes, nose and mouth. Those parts do not have to be perfect because they will be painted over with the gold paint. It just helps to have the black covered for a lighter surface to paint the gold on.

Once the paint on them is fully dry, paint a second layer. Painting on plastic is hard, so transitioning to the small brush may be beneficial in order to not rip the first layer of paint off.

Then, paint a third layer if needed to cover any missed spots.

Once the pumpkins are fully dry, it is time to move onto the eyes, nose and mouth. These will all be painted with the metallic gold paint.

Carefully paint the insides of each indentation for the eyes, nose and mouth with the other small paint brush, leaving the teeth of the jack of lantern white.

Wait for these all to dry, and then paint a second layer if needed. When they are dry, do any touch ups with the white paint to make the edges even.

Now, it is time to stack them. Add dirt or some rocks into the bottom jack-o'-lantern bucket, so it does not topple over.



Photos: The Beacon/Liz Cherinka

3) After you finish decorating, your jack-o'-lantern baskets should look something like this. You will be well on your way to a Pinterest-worthy space!



Then, stack them by hot gluing around the ring of the opening of the bottom bucket and placing the next bucket on top.

Continue this for all the buckets chosen to do. The example uses three, but more or less can be added as preferred.

To cover the hot glue line, wrap the twine around the middle of both jack-o'-lanterns, and hot glue in the back. Do not add twine onto the very bottom or very top.

Allow this to dry, and then the flowers and other decorations can be added.

Grab the fake flowers and any Halloween planter addition, such as the bat pick used in the example, and arrange those as preferred into the top bucket. Doing the mini scale will require small flowers and a few number of them, but the full scale allows the bouquet to be larger.

Once the flowers are arranged in the top bucket as preferred, the decoration is finished. You now have a spiced up fall decor perfect for any dorm room.



1) After your pumpkins have been painted, you can begin stacking. Remember to add material to the bottom for stability.



2) Once the pumpkins are stacked, it is time to decorate. Use your desired accessories, such as rope to cover glue spots or errors.



Elizabeth.Cherinka@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver

MATCH, from front

was inspired by her personal ties to those in the community experiencing terminal illness, as well as her desire to get involved in the community at Wilkes.

“Recently, a college student from my hometown was diagnosed with leukemia. He was a star swimmer in high school, where I had the opportunity to encounter firsthand his diligence and grit,” said Turnitza, who is also the student coordinator for Red Cross on campus. “After some brainstorming, it got me thinking — though I cannot single-handedly cure leukemia or lymphoma, or abolish the cancer once and for all, I can do my best to support those like this fine young gentleman and to aid in the fight of his story and for the stories we don’t hear.”

To get involved in the Be the Match Event on campus, students were encouraged to register through the Wilkes extension of the Be the Match website or by texting WilkesSaves to 61474. From there, students were prompted to input information on the site regarding personal, as well as health-related items.

If the steps were completed properly, students were guided to a screen that thanked them for potentially saving a life. Additionally, a confirmation code for testing materials to be mailed to their homes would have been received. Once

the testing kit was obtained by students, a simple cheek-swab could be performed and their kit could be mailed back to one of Be the Match’s many locations.

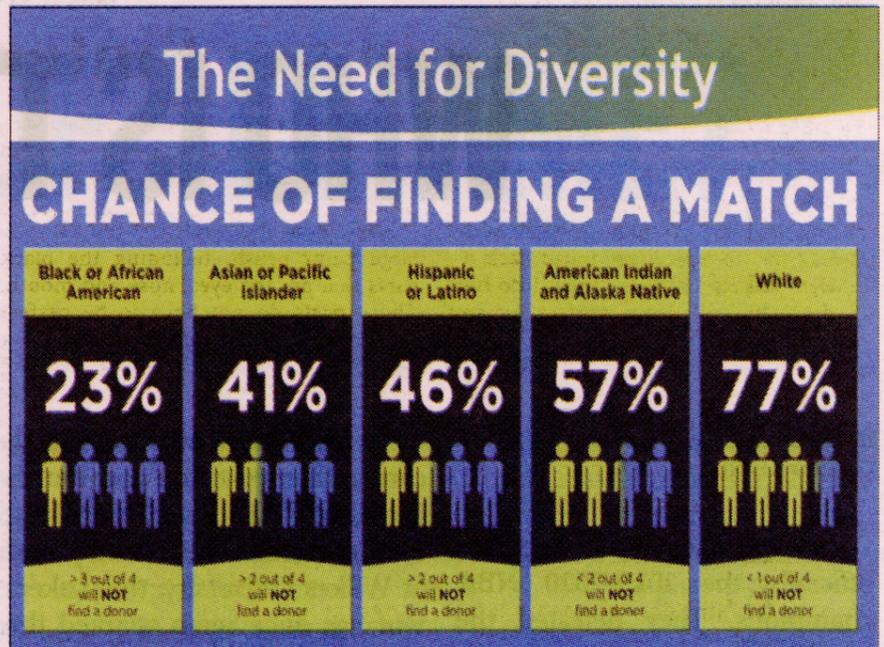
While in-person events were limited this semester due to COVID-19 precautions, which restricted community service opportunities, Boone and Turnitza agreed that a creative approach to event planning was necessary for the current semester.

“After doing some digging and collaborating with Megan Boone, we came up with the idea of doing a virtual event,” said Turnitza. “Just because in-person events are limited, it doesn’t mean we should put a halt on helping others.”

The Icla da Silva Foundation, the placing organization working with Wilkes for the Be the Match event, also held a short webinar hosted by Lauren Hero on Oct. 15 to provide students with more information on the testing process, as well as offer community service hours to students.

“I know there’s a lot of fear around donating, but it’s not as scary as you might think,” said Hero, a senior community engagement representative for the Icla da Silva Foundation. “Only about 30 percent of patients find a match in the family, so about 70 percent of our patients are relying on a stranger to register, to be tested and then say ‘yes’ when they get that call to be a match.”

Throughout the webinar, Hero



Photos: The Beacon/Maria DiBuo

Throughout the webinar, host Lauren Hero explained the lack of diversity on Be the Match’s donor registry. Depicted are various ethnic groups, along with their chances of finding a match through the current registry.

illustrated the stories of many awaiting the life-saving donation, including that of Aliani, a 4-year-old currently hospitalized while battling an aggressive form of leukemia. For Aliani, finding a match for a transplant has been extremely difficult due to the lack of diversity within the Be the Match registry.

“There are 22 million donors on the registry currently, not one is a match for Aliani. Roughly 70 percent of the registry is caucasian,” explained Hero. “You are more likely to match someone with a similar racial or ethnic background as yourself, since we are matching tissue, not a blood type.”

Throughout the webinar, Hero explained that while the Icla da Silva Foundation has a wide array of donors, the best ages to donate are between 18 and 44, increasing the importance of students on campus registering to donate. Additionally, Hero stressed the importance of staying committed throughout the process, as one’s desire to donate directly affects the life of another individual.

For Turnitza, the call for registering to be a match comes with a feeling of making a lasting impact on the community.

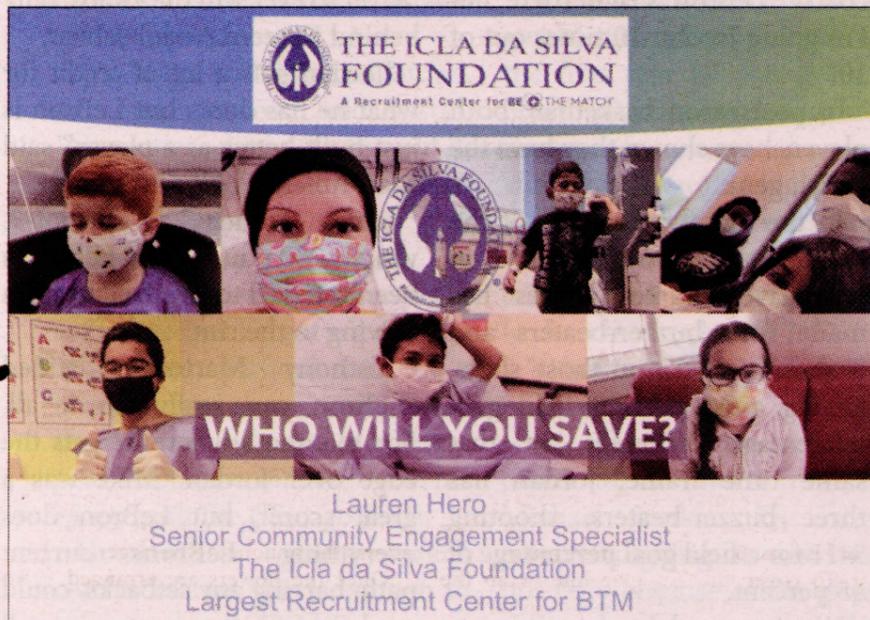
“I believe students should get involved with organizations such as this because we all know someone undergoing a

vicious, violent-sort of disease — even if it’s possibly ourselves,” said Turnitza. “Whether it’s cancer, mental illness, a blood disorder — anything — the feeling of making an impact and being the match is one of no comparison. Events such as this are easy to engage in, but the impact is one of depth and lasting effect.”

Students who were not able to attend the webinar can still register to be the match for those in need of a donor by visiting join.bethematch.org. The process will still be the same; however, the code will not be through Wilkes and community service hours will not be allotted.

Looking toward the future, Turnitza explained that there will be more events of this nature on campus in the coming weeks, specifically the Nov. 2 blood drive sponsored by the American Red Cross, which will be held in the Henry Student Center parking lot. Students will be able to sign up for a time virtually to schedule an appointment.

The Civic Engagement Office is currently taking suggestions for events from students and faculty, as well as encouraging students to get involved in the organizing. To find out more, contact Turnitza at jessica.turnitza@wilkes.edu.



Be the Match held a short webinar through the Icla Da Silva Foundation, opening a discussion surrounding fears and misconceptions about donating for students.

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WHO IS THE NBA'S

LEBRON JAMES VS.

By Dylan Mehl
Co-Sports Editor

The Los Angeles Lakers are officially the 2019-2020 NBA champions. They defeated the Miami Heat in six games to capture the franchise's 17th title. LeBron James of the Lakers was awarded Finals MVP in the team's win, averaging 29.8 points, 11.8 rebounds and 8.5 assists.

For James, this was his fourth career championship and fourth Finals MVP in his 17-year-long career. Across the country and at Wilkes University, this Lakers win has once again sparked the debate of who is the greatest basketball player of all time, or "The GOAT," as affectionately referred to by abbreviation.

The question comes down to:

LeBron James or Michael Jordan?

"Hands down, I would go with MJ," said Tara

Macciocco, Wilkes women's basketball head coach. "MJ played in a tougher era. He saw way more double and triple teams and took a beating night-in and night-out. He is someone LeBron tries to emulate, and that in itself makes him the GOAT."

James has never shied away from the fact that Jordan is someone

he takes inspiration from, telling NBA analyst Chris Broussard, "I watch more Jordan than anybody, for sure," in a 2013 interview for ESPN's The Magazine. James has even admitted to choosing the number 23 on his jersey to honor Jordan.

"If it were game seven of the NBA Finals, with five seconds left and a tie game, the player I want to have the ball in his hands more than anybody else is Michael Jordan," said Scott Robinson, Wilkes men's basketball assistant coach. "LeBron is right there, but I'm going Jordan 10 times out of 10."

In postseason basketball, both players have shown they have the clutch gene.

In the last five seconds of the fourth quarter or overtime in his playoff career, James has made four buzzer-beaters and is shooting 6-13 on those shots, having a 46 percent field goal percentage. Whereas, in that same time frame, Jordan has three buzzer-beaters, shooting 5-11 for a field goal percentage of 45 percent.

Woojun Lee, sports management professor and department chair in the

Sidhu School of Business and Leadership, said, "I think LeBron now. He has won four titles with three different teams and is currently 35 dominating the league."

Lee also went on to add that the competition James faces today is greater than that Jordan was up against.

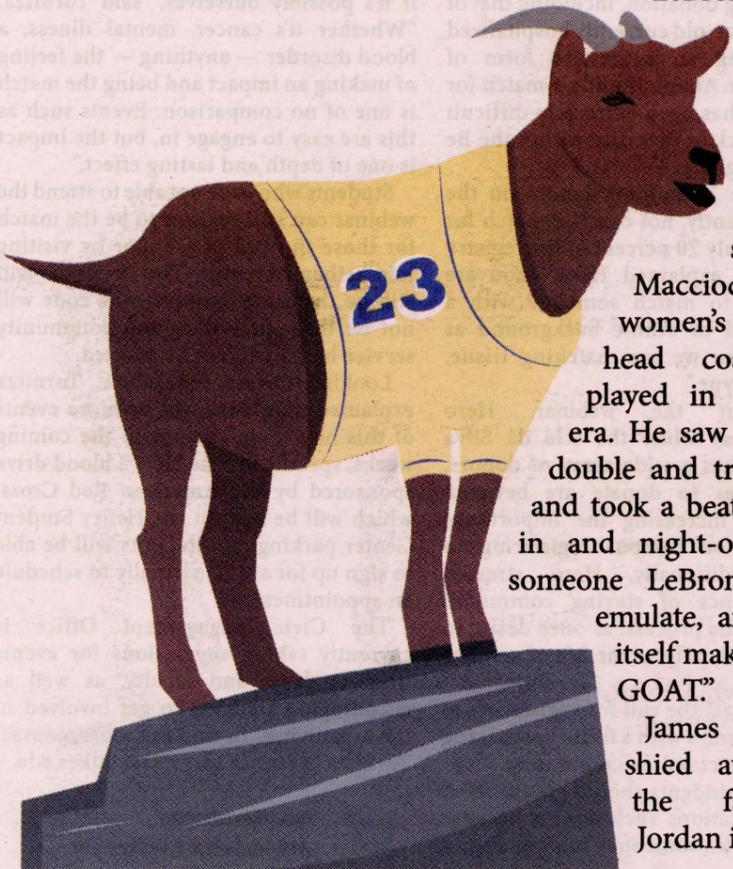
James became the first player to win three Finals MVPs with three different teams. With his most recent Finals MVP award, James also became the second oldest player to ever win the award, only behind Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

"Jordan gets a lot of credit for what he has done, but LeBron is just built better as a player," said Matt Adler, a Wilkes student.

James stands at 6-foot-9, weighs 250 pounds and has often been referred to as a freight train driving to the rim.

Anthony Martocchio added "LeBron can really do it all. For me, that's where he gets the edge over Jordan. Mike was a great scorer, but LeBron does everything. LeBron's current path, barring any setbacks, could see him with the most points all time and top five in assists."

Currently, James has 34,241



GREATEST OF ALL TIME?

MICHAEL JORDAN

career points to Jordan's 32,292. James also has 9,346 total career assists, which has him 8th all-time, as per ESPN.

While Wilkes' student body mostly grew up watching James play, the debate is still noticeably divided across campus.

For student Hoyt Stiely, the answer to the question is simple.

"Jordan easy," said Stiely. "If everyone says (Tom) Brady is the GOAT because of his Super Bowls, it should apply to basketball too."

Fellow Wilkes student Shawn Austin agreed.

"I gotta go with Michael Jordan, first and foremost," said Austin. "No matter which way you put it, he is undefeated in the Finals at 6-0."

The saying "6-for-6" is synonymous with Jordan, as it acknowledges his six trips to the NBA Finals without suffering a loss. Jordan also accomplished the rare feat in sports of a three-peat – not once, but twice – in his career with the Chicago Bulls.

However, some aren't convinced that this is enough to make Jordan the GOAT.

According to Teylor Gordy, "LeBron is the GOAT, and

my reasoning is Jordan had everything LeBron didn't. Jordan had the best front office, the best defensive team, (Scottie) Pippen as one of the best two-way players of all time and a loaded roster that included (Dennis) Rodman and (Steve) Kerr, all in their primes."

The 90s Bulls are arguably one of the greatest teams to ever play the game of basketball, and they were able to keep a winning unit for much of the decade, even when Jordan retired for the first time to play baseball.

While many thought the Bulls would struggle without Jordan, the first year he was gone, the team won only two less games in the regular season and were one win away from making the NBA Finals for the fourth straight year.

Jeanne Rabel, Wilkes undeclared advisor, took a different approach to determining her GOAT.

"I honestly think it's LeBron, mainly because he utilizes his whole platform as a basketball player for so much more than Michael Jordan. His staying power is going to last longer not only because of his physical ability, but also just the things he's been dedicated to over the course of the past year."

James has made an impact on society off the court with his fight for social justice, giving back to communities in need and opening of the I Promise School back in 2018. The school was aimed to create a better learning environment for kids who may not receive the best opportunity, due to the community they live in.

This debate has left Wilkes men's basketball head coach Izzi Metz stumped.

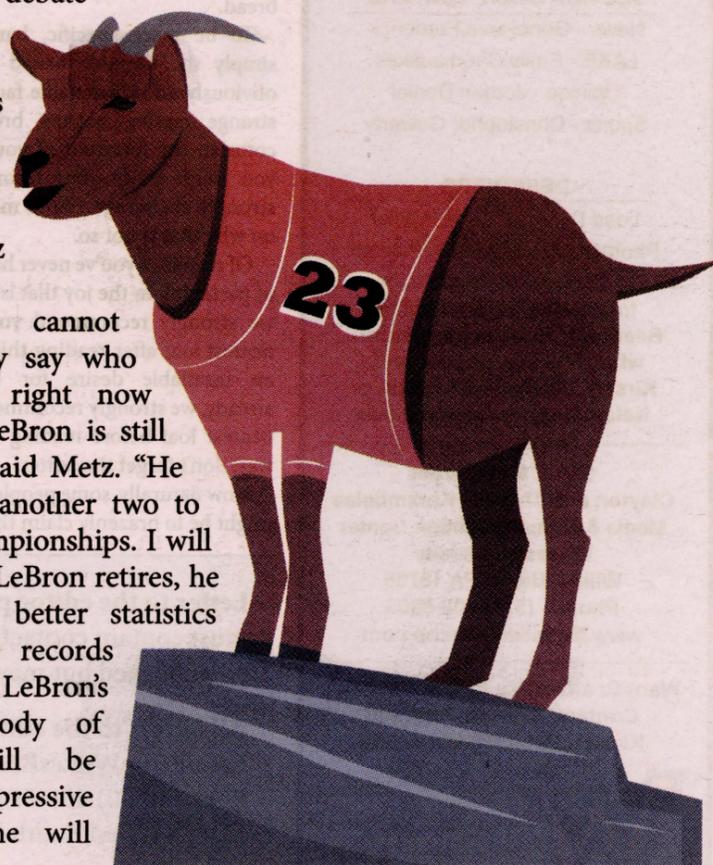
"I cannot definitively say who is better right now because LeBron is still playing," said Metz. "He may win another two to three championships. I will say when LeBron retires, he will have better statistics and more records than MJ. LeBron's overall body of work will be more impressive because he will

have played 20 years in the NBA. MJ played 15 years. But let's just enjoy LeBron while he's still playing because we are witnessing an all-time great player."



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Opinion

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

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2020-21

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Our Voice

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

The great panacea of the 2020 quarantine

Fellow readers, we hope that you are all doing well amid the pandemonium that is 2020. With all that has happened over these last ten months, we understand that you may be feeling lost or despondent at the state of the world.

And while things could certainly be worse (and given 2020 so far, probably will be), we at *The Beacon* thought that we ought to take some time this week to talk about something that is truly dear to our hearts and our shining light in the chaos: Banana bread.

To be more specific, banana bread is simply the ultimate baked good. This is obviously an indisputable fact. If, for some strange reason, banana bread does not come to the forefront of your mind when you think about your favorite foods, we strongly encourage you to meditate further on why that is not so.

Of course, if you've never had the pleasure of partaking in the joy that is banana bread, we strongly recommend you go find the nearest loaf after reading this. Or, if you've an insatiable desire for banana bread already, we strongly recommend finding the nearest loaf before reading further. Either way, don't forget the butter.

Now naturally, some people's first reaction might be to brazenly claim that other baked

goods are able to challenge banana bread's preeminence as the ultimate baked good.

Those people are wrong.

Let's look at the humble cookie, for example. At its core, cookies are flexible enough to be made in a variety of ways, with a variety of ingredients. Now, in any other comparison of baked goods, this would be a mighty advantage for the cookie. But not banana bread.

You see, banana bread has no need to be overly diverse and relentlessly experimented with by amateur bakers in the same way that cookies are. Banana bread always has been, and always will be, banana bread.

Although the recipe is almost a century old, banana bread continues to represent the pinnacle of baked goods. All of its components are perfectly balanced, as all things should be.

And when you make a loaf (or ideally, loaves) of banana bread, you're not just making some fancy fruit-based bread. No, if executed correctly with a proper recipe, you're making ambrosia — the food of the gods.

You see, one of banana bread's defining traits (which is often taken for granted) is its durability. When you bake a meager batch of a dozen or so cookies, these cookies rarely survive past a few days. And if you're

not living alone, those cookies will not see the dawn.

But should you choose to bake a loaf or two of banana bread, you will quickly notice that an entire loaf of banana bread is not so easily devoured by someone's passing hunger. Or three.

Nay! The loaf endures.

Through some light meal planning, an entire loaf of banana bread can sustain a third of a human's meals for the week. And though a similar amount of effort is made in baking cookies from scratch, can any of us truly say the same about the lifespan of a batch of cookies?

Truly, out of all the baked goods, banana bread has no rival. No equal. Banana bread stands so far above the rest on a plateau that other baked goods can only dream to be as universally beloved and supreme as banana bread.

And as we enter these final dogged months of 2020, our recommendation for dealing with the troubles of the past, present and future is to enjoy a slice of banana bread. Because for those of us at *The Beacon*, the buck stops at banana bread — the superior baked good.



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

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

Email: TheWilkesBeacon@wilkes.edu

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

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

2020 Vice Presidential Debate: Who won? What happened?

By Liam Flynn
Staff Writer

The vice presidential debate of the 2020 election between Senator Kamala Harris and Vice President Mike Pence was held on Oct. 7 at Kingsbury Hall at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Susan Page of USA Today moderated the debate.

The debate was to be divided into nine 10-minute segments, although the moderator was only able to ask candidates about eight topics in total. The candidates were seated 12 feet and 3 inches apart.

During the debate, Pence echoed many of President Donald Trump's false or misleading claims, including on topics such as the COVID-19 pandemic, health care and universal mail-in voting.

Pence inaccurately said that the administration had "always" been truthful about the pandemic, claiming that he and Trump had a plan to "improve health care and to protect pre-existing conditions for every American," when no such plan has been put forth by the administration.

He also inaccurately claimed that the system of mail-in voting would "create a massive opportunity for voter fraud," a claim contrary to numerous studies. Pence misrepresented the findings of the Mueller investigation, as well as Joe Biden's position on fracking and the Green New Deal.

To a lesser degree, Harris also made statements that were misleading or lacked context, mostly relating to the U.S. economy.

During the debate, Page asked both vice presidential candidates whether they had discussed or reached an agreement with their running mates "about safeguards or procedures when it comes to presidential disability." The issue had come to prominence due to the age of the two 2020 presidential candidates both currently being in their 70s and Trump's hospitalization with COVID-19 earlier that same month. Both Pence and Harris dodged the question and instead pivoted to other topics.

There were several other notable moments from the debate. Pence refused to commit to accepting the results of the election and ensuring a peaceful transition of power if Trump and Pence were to lose.

Pence's response echoed Trump's own repeated statements, refusing to commit to honoring the results if they lose.

When Harris was asked if she would support an expansion of the number of justices on the Supreme Court if the Senate confirmed Trump's nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the Court, she did not answer the question. Instead, she mentioned how President Abraham

Lincoln did not nominate a successor for Justice Roger B. Taney, as he had died 27 days before the 1864 presidential election. She retorted, "Mr. Vice President, I'm speaking. I'm speaking," making it clear she wasn't going to let a male opponent get away with any intimidation tactics.

It goes without question to state that Harris easily won the debate, as Pence showed an unexpectedly rude side of his personality. Pence came across as Trump-



light, telling falsehoods, interrupting others and ignoring the rules, almost as much as the boss he praised with his usual unctuousness.

Because he can put together complete sentences, Pence was able to pack in more whoppers per second than Trump did in last week's deranged presidential debate. Pence spoke over the two women in front of him, condescendingly ignoring moderator Page's repeated entreaties to stop talking when his time was up, and frequently interrupting his rival, who tried to keep her cool, as women often feel they must, saying "I'd like equal time."

Trump doesn't have the dexterity, discipline or knowledge base to stay on

topic, answer questions directly, follow the rules and avoid ad hominem. Pence does, and instead chose to disrespect the two women on that stage. Harris won because she had so much more material to work with. All she had to do was cite the facts about the Trump administration's catastrophic handling of the coronavirus.

Incidentally, the failures were evident in Pence's very presence at the debate when he should have been in quarantine, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines. Harris pointed to Trump's failures in paying his taxes, his efforts to get rid of ObamaCare in the midst of a pandemic, the dismal state of the economy, Trump's reluctance to clearly condemn white supremacists and on and on.

Pence responded with the familiar lies and evasions we have been hearing from Trump for months, including a few new doozies. It was hard to contain a laugh when he stated that Trump has been very good on the environment and is listening to the scientists, when he said Trump has always told the truth and when he repeatedly misrepresented Biden's foreign policy record.

With Trump behind in most polls, this was Pence's last real chance to change the trajectory of the race, but he was not up for the job and looked miserable for nearly the entire debate. Several times, he brought the focus back to the coronavirus, a topic he would have been wise to avoid as much as possible. His vague answers on climate change and racial justice made him seem out of step with the national mood.

The debate didn't generate much news or many knockout lines, so when a fly landed and remained on the vice president's head for over two minutes, people were transfixed. Many took to social media, unable to resist weighing in with jokes. Enormous attention was given to health precautions, ventilation systems and testing of attendees at the debate site, but the appearance of one insect was a scenario no one prepared for, and it was hard to ignore.

As entertaining as the fly was, Harris won this round.

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Bre's Beats: BBMA's awkward but successful night of music

By Breanna Ebisch
Opinion Editor

Similar to many other well-known award shows that are hosted every year across various industries, the Billboard Music Awards underwent some changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic but still went flawlessly. After being postponed from its original date back in April, the show continued on in the best way possible and did not disappoint.

Hosted by Kelly Clarkson for the second consecutive year, the event took place live from the Dolby Theater in Los Angeles on Oct. 14 and was broadcasted exclusively on NBC.

Although there was no live audience in attendance, the award show attempted to capture its usual normalcy and excitement even under such odd circumstances.

With a lengthy list of well known performers, including BTS, Kane Brown and Doja Cat, the stage was lit up with a mix of stunning and mediocre performances throughout the night. Several unique collaborations took place between artists topping the charts today and ones from decades ago while also featuring surprises to make the night of music even more monumental.

Post Malone, the R&B rap artist who rose to fame in 2017 with the hit single "Rockstar," was nominated for a whopping 16 awards in 15 different categories and ended up winning nine, including Top Artist, Top Male Artist, Top Billboard 200 Artist, Top Hot 100 Artist and Top Streaming Songs Artist.

Billie Eilish, the young female artist breaking boundaries and records with her outstanding music, also took home several awards, including Top Billboard 200 Album, Top Female Artist and Top New Artist, despite being up against other big names.

For the fan-voted awards, some predictable and surprising wins were announced. This year, Billboard took to TikTok to encourage fans to vote for their favorite artists nominated in the three different categories, along with the usual form of voting through their website.

Top Social Artist went to BTS for the fourth year in a row, Harry Styles won the Billboard Chart Achievement Award and Shawn Mendes and Camila Cabello's 2019 hit "Señorita" won Best Collaboration.

For the first time, the BBMA's presented the Change Maker Award, which is given to an artist or group that speaks truth to power through their art, celebrity and community.

Killer Mike, who belongs to the duo Run The Jewels, received the honor for his continuous work in relation to social justice issues that are prominent today. One of country music's biggest artists, Garth Brooks, received the Icon Award for the achievements made during his

three-decade-long career.

Even though the thousands of people who would usually be attending the show were not present, the winners, presenters and performers were all able to be there in-person for their contribution to the big night.

Social distancing rules were followed throughout the entire event. Some stars, such as Eilish, chose to go one step further and wear a mask when accepting awards, serving as subtle reminders of how different this show was from past ones.

In terms of performances, the BBMA's

Angeles for the performance of their single "Dynamite," and instead were in their home country of South Korea. Not only visually pleasing but packed with impressive vocals from the band, it is safe to say that BTS was another favorite of the night.

Alicia Keys took the stage as well and wowed anyone watching with her voice, instrumental skills (including her iconic and usual sit down at a grand piano) and strong stage presence. Like always, Keys was a breath of fresh air in terms of the difference between her and some of the other performers.

Artists, she quickly thanked Billboard and her fans before diving into topics relevant to issues surfacing today, such as suppression and encouraging others to vote. Her speech immediately became one of the biggest highlights of the night.

Each time Eilish was on stage to claim her wins, she also used the microphone to talk about the need for everyone to vote. For someone who just recently turned 18, her words were the most shocking. From one young person to millions of others, the artist made sure the audience knew how drastic this simple action was, and using her time on stage to do that was monumental.

Unfortunately, not all of the bold stances were received positively. Demi Lovato was slated to perform her new song "Commander in Chief," which is a powerful ballad she sang beautifully. Aimed as a direct hit full of criticism to the president, the strong meaning was clear and reportedly censored by NBC for what many speculate to be that exact reason.

Considering the president was scheduled to be on the national channel the next day for a town hall in place of the missed presidential debate, this does not seem unlikely.

Overall, the 2020 Billboard Music Awards were successful and were a nice touch of some sense of normalcy in a year where everything has been flipped upside down.

The exciting performances, award recipients and special moments definitely made the night worthwhile in so many ways and gave music fans across the country something to enjoy during such weird times.

The only aspect of the show that seemed to ruin the well created buzzing atmosphere would be the lack of a live audience, which, of course, is widely expected today.

However, after the host or presenters were finished speaking and performances came to an end, where the artist usually says, "Thank you," to the crowd, they were all met with awkward silence. Without the applause or cheers to fill the empty space, that was all there was.

Clarkson handled the quiet moments fairly well, but for a handful of the presenters, those long few seconds felt like an eternity and made the show feel awkward for viewers at home as well. Since the no in-person attendance is part of the new "normal," those little bits of time will inevitably come with that initial cringe until we get used to it.

Despite the circumstances and countless changes to make the night full of music happen, this year's BBMA's were certainly one for the books.



offered a wide range in who took the stage. From Latin to pop to country, many artists brought the power of music to the stage.

Clarkson opened the show with a simple, yet stunning performance of Whitney Houston's "Higher Love," alongside acapella group Pentatonix and percussionist Sheila E.

John Legend dedicated his emotional performance of "Never Break," a new song off his latest album, to his wife who recently went through a devastating pregnancy loss. The heartfelt ballad on the piano was easily one of the best moments of the show and brought everyone watching close to tears.

Global sensation BTS was not in Los

Post Malone received a lot of attention for his performance from a top secret location in L.A., and Brooks brought a medley of his biggest hits to the stage after receiving the Icon Award.

Like any other high profile award show, the BBMA's came with more than a few political or social justice takes through acceptance speeches, fashion and statements. Because the event took place only a few weeks prior to the 2020 election, many artists spoke on the importance of voting and citizens using their voice for the future.

Lizzo wore a stunning VOTE dress, and when accepting her award for Top Song Sales



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COVID-19 causes stress: A tension to detail in young people

By Breanna Ebisch
Opinion Editor

COVID-19 has presented a whole new set of challenges and introduced an overwhelming amount of stress for everyone through many aspects of life.

From the drastic changes in schooling, workplaces, social life, traveling and many more, the pandemic has affected the life we previously had known as the norm.

And while the world's population is adjusting in their own ways, some better than others, young people are at the center of a whole other crisis that COVID-19 has started.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in mid-March, young adults have been victims to some of the worst mental health issues in decades due to the ever-growing stress the virus is responsible for.

However, as millions of people continue to struggle with the new way of life while juggling all the expectations of being a functioning adult still trying to find their place in the world, many belonging to the older generations downplay the impact of the stress young people are forced to burden.

According to Hartford HealthCare, "A new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study of more than 5,400 American young adults age 18 and older revealed more than 60 percent reported feeling this way. The results – three times as high as the same time in 2019 – also include a reported increase in suicidal thoughts and substance use. The researchers suggest the fear of illness and the radical changes made to their lives with remote learning and social isolation orders in place are the cause."

The numbers are staggering, showing a shocking increase from the past year, and the numbers should be concerning. Having to deal with the stress of school, working jobs, looking for jobs, supporting oneself, spending time with friends and so much more already makes the lives of young adults a continuous struggle.

Now, add in the changes of quarantine, losing the ability to see their friends and family in-person, missing major events and having to take on the massive changes made to their lives. The stress is undeniable.

Many young people are concerned about their future more than ever before,

as COVID-19 continues to impact employment, the economy and ways of living. With everyday being just as uncertain as the last, young adults are struggling to stay on top of everything while still trying to succeed.

Despite the obvious amounts of stress and pressure this particular demographic is under, the older generations don't seem to take the harsh effects seriously. Not only are the older adults not experiencing the same mental health issues that stem from COVID-19, but they seem to belittle the feelings of young people because what they are going through doesn't feel like a real problem compared to theirs.

Sure, the challenges of being a young adult are difficult, more so now, but that does not mean the stress this virus has presented doesn't affect them in a way that clearly even studies are showing is drastic. Everyone's experiences with this new "normal" are going to vary, but when a very large group of people all fall into the same category of a major decline in their mental health and experience an unprecedented amount of stress and anxiety, something is wrong.

According to the CDC, "Coronavirus

disease (COVID-19) can affect young adults directly and indirectly. Beyond getting sick, many young adults' social, emotional and mental well-being has been impacted by the pandemic. Trauma faced at this developmental stage may have long-term consequences across their lifespan."

Older generations could offer their support and help in order to pull through this unprecedented time. The CDC recommends being able to recognize and address fear, help young adults take care of themselves, stay healthy and remain socially connected.

Breaking the thought process that many older adults believe about the stress young people have experienced is crucial, especially including the new challenges COVID-19 has resulted in.

The stress and anxiety that young adults are feeling because of this pandemic is one hundred percent real, and they will only get worse without the proper support and changes from others.



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Do we ever make the right choices? Of course we do, or maybe not

By Zarqua Ansari
Asst. Opinion Editor

American culture focuses on autonomy and freedom as critical to mental health. These are considered to be natural rights that people expect to have. Being able to do what we want and explore variety in our options are considered healthy attitudes. Grocery stores are filled with a diverse selection of options for that very reason.

For example, deciding to eat breakfast means you have to pick what kind of food you want: eggs, pancakes, cereal etc. Once you've made that decision, those categories can be broken down into specifics. Do you want Frosted Flakes, Lucky Charms or Cheerios?

These choices, although innocent, build arbitrary stress to the already occupied human mind. I asked my dad to buy me orange juice. He came back with three different brands because he wanted to see if there was even a fundamental difference in them. In reality, he was struggling to make a decision.

Having many options is considered to be a good thing. In a country where individuality is a prime focus, the abundance of choices allow that individuality to be expressed with ease. By introducing variety to this level, people are able to keep their lives interesting. However, too many choices have been increasingly viewed as a bad thing.

Coined by Alvin Toffler in his 1970 book "Future Shock," the term "overchoice" refers to the cognitive impairment associated with making a decision when too many options are available. This phenomenon results in many negative side effects, like blaming oneself when something goes wrong because the person believes they made a wrong choice.

A simple decision to get ice cream causes so much unnecessary stress that people often resort to picking the same flavor (Why is it a twist with sprinkles?). An ice cream shop in my hometown added new flavors, but these flavors were not popular and were discontinued soon after. The new flavors weren't bad. It was simply because the flavor options were so overwhelming in number that people didn't even try the new flavors to see if they liked them. They just got their twist with sprinkles to avoid making a choice.

According to Laws of UX, British and American psychologists William Hick and Ray Hyman described a mathematical

relationship between the number of choices and decision time. The Hick-Hyman law states that as choices increase, the time to arrive at a decision increases logarithmically. This means that as options increase, our decision time increases towards infinity.

As a result, the cereal aisle is a nightmare. If you know you want cereal, but don't know which kind, it is easy to be lost in the

relationship between the number of choices and decision time. The Hick-Hyman law states that as choices increase, the time to arrive at a decision increases logarithmically. This means that as options increase, our decision time increases towards infinity.

have to pick 25 schools that I want to go to and that I have a chance of actually getting in. The entire process is very time consuming and mentally taxing. Some schools have a lot more information on their websites than others. The lack of knowledge of these places and the inability to acquire accurate and up-to-date information leads to confusion among the options. I spent a month trying

making tougher. Many people ask me where I want to go to school. I never have an answer. At this point, I will go to the school that takes me. I often wonder if my decision to come to Wilkes was the best option for me, not because I dislike it here, but because I don't know what could have happened elsewhere.

My dilemma highlights the importance of choices. Having information about your options influences your decision making for the better and for worse. On one hand, it is good to know vital information that could help you narrow your search. On the other hand, all of the schools I apply to have the same mission statements, tuitions and acceptance rates, which doesn't help narrow the search. Whether my dad had purchased Tropicana or Simply Orange didn't matter at the end of the day, but the decision still stumped him.

A lot of life is spent wondering about decisions we feel that we have made incorrectly. Dwelling on what-ifs prevents people from embracing the present life they are leading. Much like the orange juice, your decisions don't really matter. Choices give us the illusion of individuality perpetuated by American culture. The reality is, the little control we have is illusory. It is important for us to feel accomplished, so we respectfully skirt the topic.

Once you wrap your head around the world of decision making, overchoice seems ridiculous. We are conditioned to think there is a right answer to everything. This often prevents us from actually making decisions that we want to make. At some point, the decisions you make aren't yours, but the ones you feel you should be making.

Variety is offered to us to help us feel more individual. However, the variety just stumps us. We feel like there is a right answer, so we try to pick that one. We are worried about what other people will think about our preferences and want to fit in, thus defeating the purpose of variability. If companies make less variety, people might feel more comfortable.

However, limiting choices infringes on the American ideal of individuality. The drive to be more unique would result in the production of more options. We will be right where we started. The problem is circular, like arrows pointing at one another, none leading anywhere different than each other. It's all orange juice under the bridge.

maze of grains (pun intended). My mother sent me to the store to purchase marinara sauce, and the sheer number of brands and prices all promising a homemade taste overwhelmed me so much I ended up spending ten minutes squatting in front of the shelves. I was feeling quite lost in the sauce.

Decision time is not the only thing affected by having too many choices. Since I am applying to medical school, I have had to sort through 154 MD programs. My search was narrowed by some factors, such as proximity to home and GPA, but 154 options is a lot of options nonetheless.

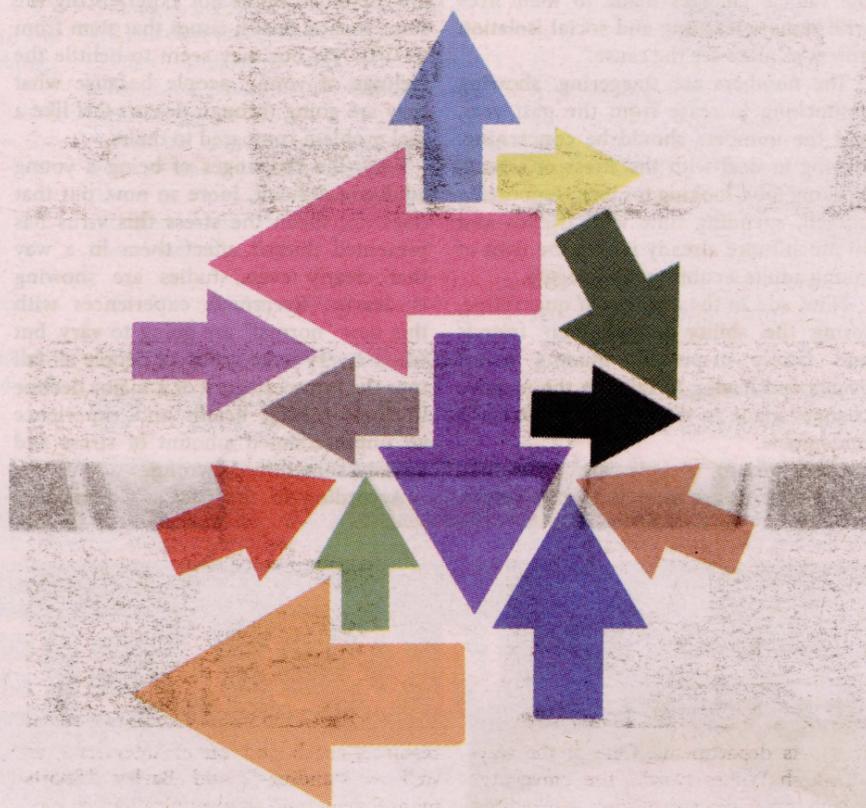
I didn't want to spend more than \$2,000 on applications, so I knew I could only apply to 25. In order to get in some place, I

to decipher which schools were worth my time, only to find contradictory information about the schools later.

The anxiety and stress caused by the variety in choices is contradictory to what variety is supposed to bring. I often found myself wondering if I picked the wrong 25 schools and wouldn't get into any of them.

Harvard professor George Miller cites the perfect number of choices as seven plus or minus two options. This means 154 MD programs is 22 times the number of choices that the human brain can comprehend. The ice cream place had 7 times the options to make a decision, and the cereal aisle is still a nightmare.

Having many choices and little information provided made decision



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Graphic by Zarqua Ansari

Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact the Sports Editors: Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu or Dylan.Mehl@wilkes.edu

Opportunities open to students interested in sports broadcasting

By Chris Gowarty
Sports Staff Writer

Sports management and communication studies students who are focusing on sports, could partake in the opportunities Wilkes has to hone one's craft.

Students majoring in sports management plan to be able to manage teams, players and facilities while dealing with marketing and advertising of sports and products related to sports in their careers.

"From the sports management department, there are numerous ways a student can pursue their careers," said Woojun Lee, director of the sports management program. "Many of our students want to work in sports organizations, such as professional or minor league teams. Marketing, ticketing sales, social media management or becoming an athletic director are the many forms of a career that sports management can provide."

The program was crafted with all of these opportunities in mind.

"Wilkes has almost everything – our curriculum is very strong," said Lee. "When I first developed the curriculum for this at Wilkes, I benchmarked the greatest sports management programs all over the world, including the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Temple, Texas A&M and UCONN, which are all well-established sports management programs. These programs have a different variety of course, and I wanted to deliver the same amount of courses here at Wilkes University."

Not only does Wilkes offer state of the art sports management major, but the location of the university is close to two minor league teams that can allow students to gain professional level experience.

"We have two minor league teams close to us," said Lee. "We have a great relationship with the Penguins (hockey) as well as the RailRiders (baseball). We also have a sports management club, which will usually schedule tours with different facilities. Even though there are some great programs around us, I think that we have the strongest sport management program."

To go alongside with the sports management program, Wilkes also has different ways that students could get involved so they could gain experience in



Photos: The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Top: Students can host sports broadcasts on 90.7 WCLH radio.
Bottom: Sports anchors can host segments on Wilkes Now!



the sports departments. One of the ways is through Wilkes Now!, the university's student-run news-magazine television broadcast.

"(Wilkes Now) is a great show to be a part of when learning about broadcast and reporting," said Ian Bayley, the show's producer. "Any student could participate in this, but they must have a will to learn new skills. They can get involved with anchoring, reporting, camera and control room equipment operation, as well as various leadership and teamwork skills."

The work that goes into the sports segment of the TV program gives students the opportunity to work with state-of-the-art equipment and build their skills for the real world.

"Sports is undoubtedly one of the most involved segments, including capturing video of practices, games (when they

resume), coach and player interviews, as well as standings," said Bayley. "Sports management and communication studies majors alike who are interested in focusing their career in sports have a lot to do with this show. Some key skills involve interviewing, time management, networking (with coaches and players), as well as timeliness with the athletic season."

Interested students can attend weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 11 a.m. in the TV Studio located in the Karambelas Media and Communication Center.

Another way that students can get involved is through the university's radio station. The radio broadcasts off of 90.7 WCLH Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton/Scranton.

Ryan Martel, a sophomore marketing and hospitality major, talked about his experience with the radio station.

"I have been doing the radio show since

last year," said Martel. "We really got it going this year with a brand-new name, which is 'The Huddle.' We're able to revamp the program. Last year, we had one show a week, and now we do three."

Being apart of departments like this can allow students to find their niche and pursue their true passions.

"I would like to do something sports-related for whatever I do, whether it's with a professional sports team or doing a talk show about sports," said Martel. "The radio show has definitely helped me with my major because it's gotten me places I couldn't imagine being in, like calling the football team's bowl game last November or calling both the men's and women's basketball games last winter. I've also learned how to run the table for the radio show, which teaches skills for people who are interested in going into the broadcasting field."

Co-hosting a show allows for diversity among the topics discussed, allows for people to develop skills that will help them in their professional careers and aids learning in how to work well with a team.

"We mostly talk about basketball and football with some baseball segments in there," said Martel. "We have weekly segments by all three of us, including 'Women in Sports Wednesdays' with Ariel (Reed), 'Fantasy Thursdays' with Dylan (Mehl), and my own 'Martel's Football Power Rankings' on Tuesdays. Our chemistry on the show is unmatched. With the analytical way we all approach sports and Dylan's emotional based picks, it's like we're a young Skip Bayless and Shannon Sharpe with Ariel serving as the mediator. We also have heated debates over NBA teams, as we all support different teams."

Getting involved with WCLH is as easy as contacting an E-Staff member.

"If any students are interested in the radio, you can find us three on campus throughout the week, or you can come to the building for our show times, which are 9 to 11 p.m. on Tuesdays, 7 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, and 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursdays," said Martel. "You could talk to us about potentially starting your own show or joining us for a day."



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NFL: A week five recap; four teams remain undefeated

By Dylan Mehl and Baylee Guedes
Co-Sports Editor, Staff Writer

Heading into week six of the NFL season, four teams stand with perfect records: the Steelers, Seahawks, Packers and Titans.

In week five, the battle for Pennsylvania dominance was underway as the Pittsburgh Steelers took on the Philadelphia Eagles. Pittsburgh picked up the win by a score of 38-29 behind rookie wide receiver Chase Claypool's four-touchdown performance.

"When (Diontae) went down I knew I had to step up for the time being, and luckily I was able to do that," said Claypool after the week four win, per Pro Football Talk.

The Eagles now move to a record of 1-3-1, which currently holds the number two seed in the NFC East.

"We got to keep working. We got to keep fighting," said Eagles head coach Doug Pederson, after the loss against the Steelers.

The Dallas Cowboys picked up a 37-34 win over division rival New York Giants, which bumped them into first place in the NFC East. However, Dallas suffered a huge loss, as starting quarterback Dak Prescott will sit out for the rest of the season due to a compound fracture and dislocation in his right ankle.

The Seahawks kept their record perfect after a close win on Sunday night football over the Minnesota Vikings by a score of 27-26. Russell Wilson totaled three touchdown passes against the Vikings, bringing his season total to an NFL leading 19.

DK Metcalf has been a huge part of the offense to start the season, with 496 receiving yards through the first five weeks of the season.

According to Wilson, "DK Metcalf is the best in the world at what he does."

In a game that was in doubt for much of the week due to COVID-19 concerns, the Tennessee Titans defeated the Buffalo Bills 42-16 to move to 4-0 on the year. Ryan Tannehill and Derrick Henry combined for six total touchdowns in the win.

On Thursday Night Football, Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers fell to Nick Foles and the Chicago Bears, 20-19. Foles led the Bears on a late-game drive, which led kicker Cairo Santos to hit the game-winning 38-yard field goal with one minute and eight seconds left in the game.

In week six, the Bucs will be looking to bounce back on Sunday, as they take on the 4-0 Green Bay Packers in a quarterback battle between Brady and Aaron Rodgers.

The Atlanta Falcons suffered their fifth loss in a row to start the season, as the

Carolina Panthers defeated them 23-16 behind quarterback Teddy Bridgewater's 313 passing yards and two passing touchdowns.

After suffering yet another loss, the Falcons decided to cut ties with head coach Dan Quinn, ending the coach's six-year tenure with the team. The firing of Quinn has left NFL fans wondering if the Falcons will enter rebuilding mode and begin to trade away star players, such as Julio Jones.

In a high scoring game, the Las Vegas Raiders earned a 40-32 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs. This marked the

f i r s t

time the Raiders have beaten the Chiefs in Kansas City since 2012.

In the win, Raiders quarterback Derek Carr racked up 347 passing yards along with three passing touchdowns.

"(Jon) Gruden's back," said Hoyt Stiely, a Wilkes student. "They played a solid game and took advantage of the Chiefs' mistakes. They did what they're good at and kept going with it."

An overtime thriller on Monday night led to a New Orleans Saints 30-

27 victory over the

Los Angeles Chargers. For New Orleans, receiver Emmanuel Sanders had 12 catches for 122 yards in the absence of the league's leader in receptions last year, Michael Thomas. Thomas was benched by the Saints for the duration of the game due to fighting at practice during the week.

The Cleveland Browns continued their victorious ways against the Indianapolis Colts, winning 32-23. Cleveland has the league's leading rushing game this season and added another 124 yards to that total.

Baltimore moved to 4-1 on the season, as they dominated the Bengals in a 27-3 victory where the defense excelled. In addition to not allowing a single touchdown on the day, Baltimore's defense forced three turnovers and got them a touchdown. Rookie linebacker Patrick Queen earned himself AFC defensive player of the week with nine tackles, a sack, one forced fumble, two fumble recoveries and a touchdown.

Kyler Murray and the Arizona Cardinals beat the New York Jets, 30-10, after jumping out to a 17-3 lead at halftime. Murray's 411 total yards and two total touchdowns, with one through the air and another rushing on the day, earned him the NFC offensive player of the week.

The Los Angeles Rams defeated the Washington Football Team, 30-10, in a game that saw Aaron Donald get four sacks. For Washington, quarterback Alex Smith took his first NFL snap since his devastating leg injury back in 2018.

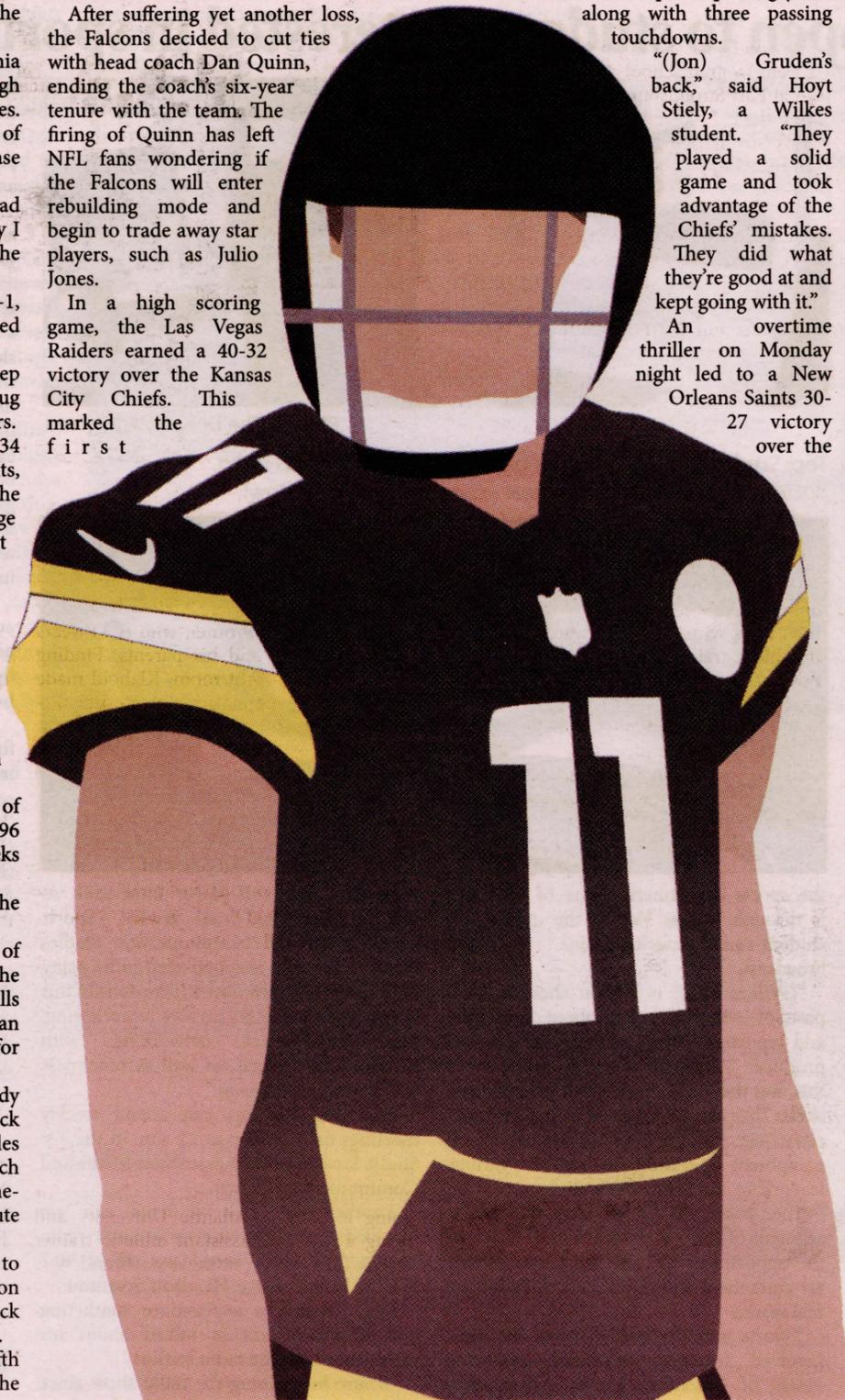
The Miami Dolphins' offense exploded for 43 points in San Francisco against the 49ers, as Dolphins quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick totaled 350 passing yards and three touchdown passes. San Francisco struggled early in the game, going to backup quarterback C.J. Beathard in the second half in an attempt to spark the offense.

In their first game since firing former head coach and acting general manager Bill O'Brien, the Houston Texans picked up their first win of the season beating the Jacksonville Jaguars, 30-14. Brandin Cooks had eight receptions for 161 yards and a touchdown in the win. Texans defensive end J.J. Watt took to Twitter after the win to celebrate, tweeting, "FUN! Finally!!"

The New England Patriots versus the Denver Broncos game scheduled for week five was pushed back until week six due to COVID-19 concerns after several Patriots players have tested positive in recent weeks.

The Patriots remain in second place behind the Buffalo Bills in the AFC East in the first season since Brady's departure.

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Graphic by Mia Walker



Slippery Rock alumni team up as Wilkes strength coaches

By Ariel Reed
Co-Sports Editor

Wilkes athletes have been able to improve themselves not only in the classroom or in their sport, but also in the weight room with state of the art equipment and two strength coaches.

Keith Klahold and Zack LeDuc are the head and assistant strength coaches, respectively. Both Klahold and LeDuc attended the same university, Slippery Rock, to obtain their degrees; however, they differ in the approaches they took.

LeDuc knew from a young age that he wanted to pursue a career in athletics because he loved the atmosphere.

"I love the high intense environment from football, even when I was a GA. I worked at the high school that I went to," said LeDuc. "It was kind of cool to see what athletics were like from the other side. I definitely thought, 'This is the environment I want to be working in. I like working with kids, and I like working with exercise.'"

LeDuc initially had intentions of being a physical therapist.

"I knew I wanted to do something in the exercise field, and my first thought was physical therapy, so that's where I went," LeDuc said. "I did my undergrad at Slippery Rock in exercise science with the idea of later going into physical therapy school, but then I actually got physical therapy. I thought, 'You know, this isn't really what I want to do.' On my way home for Christmas Break, I realized I love exercise, I love weight training and I love sports – let's put them together. I switched to strength and conditioning, and from there went and started doing observations."

Before coming to Wilkes, LeDuc ventured in all directions, gaining experience and knowledge with various athletic departments.

"I did a bunch of internships. My senior year, I did one at Pittsburgh," said LeDuc. "I went to grad school at PSU and did my GA at East Stroudsburg South High School. From there, I did an internship at Iowa State University in their football department. That summer, I applied to Wilkes and ended up working here."

Klahold brought LeDuc on staff in 2017. Klahold started with Wilkes in 2003, the same year the school added a weight training center.

Similar to LeDuc, Klahold also started his career initially not wanting to pursue strength training.

"I decided I wanted to go to college for athletic training my sophomore year when my brother opened up a gym back home and hired me to run it for him," said Klahold. "That year, I started working with some of the kids at the local high school and found that I enjoyed working with them and helping them improve their performance more than just taping ankles and taking care of injuries. I found that I'd rather prevent injuries before they happen, then work with them afterwards. I finished in athletic training and then went after GA positions in strength and conditioning when I graduated."

Klahold has been surrounded by weight training his entire life. From an early age, Klahold was found in a weight room and even dabbled in competitive lifting.

He started weight training when he was in ninth grade. His school did not have a middle school, meaning in ninth grade, athletes



Photos: The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Zack LeDuc, assistant strength and conditioning coach, worked with a softball player on the proper form to complete a bench press on the floor.

either played varsity or "Pop Warner."

His decision to play up a level was heavily influenced by his brother, who is 11 years older than him, and his parents. Finding his niche in a weight room, Klahold made the jump to competitive powerlifting his sophomore year.

"I got into powerlifting my sophomore year in high school. The gym that I trained in was about a half hour from home. My brother and the gym owner kept telling me that I should give it a shot and check powerlifting out," Klahold said. "I went to a local competition my freshman year and watched it. I thought, 'Yeah, I can do that.' Then my sophomore year, I entered my first competition and ended up winning, beating a senior from a big high school. From there, I just stayed with it. My last year competing was 2003, the year I got hired here."

In addition to his powerlifting ventures, Klahold also pursued different avenues in far away states before winding up a little closer to his hometown. "When I graduated at Slippery Rock, I had the choice of either going to East Tennessee State and being a graduate assistant athletic trainer there or going to Florida Atlantic University and being a graduate assistant athletic trainer there. They were putting in a brand new weight room, adding football and looking to add a full-time head strength and conditioning coach," said Klahold. "I chose to take the chance and go to Florida Atlantic."

"I spent a year as a graduate assistant athletic trainer, and then worked with

baseball and softball there as their strength coach. I got there in Fall of '97, and Spring '98 they hired me as their first-ever head strength and conditioning coach. It was quite different being 23 and being a head strength coach in a Division I school.

"My wife, our head softball coach, decided that we wanted to move back closer to home and family. We came back to Pennsylvania to live with my parents. I worked at Weiser High School as their strength coach for a year and at a local gym downtown as a personal trainer. Wilkes decided to put in our fitness center here and hire a strength coach, so I applied and have been here ever since."

The strength coaches at Wilkes care for their students not only athletically, but also in regards to their personal lives and future aspirations.

"The big thing we focus on down here is really helping our athletes succeed not only on the field, court or ice, but also in the classroom and in life," LeDuc said. "We want to instill positive habits moving forward, even after college. We want to instill habits that you'll take with you for the rest of your life. We're not just here for four years, we're here to make you better – to make your life moving forward more successful. That's really the big thing that we strive to achieve not only having you for these four years but helping you throughout the rest of your life."



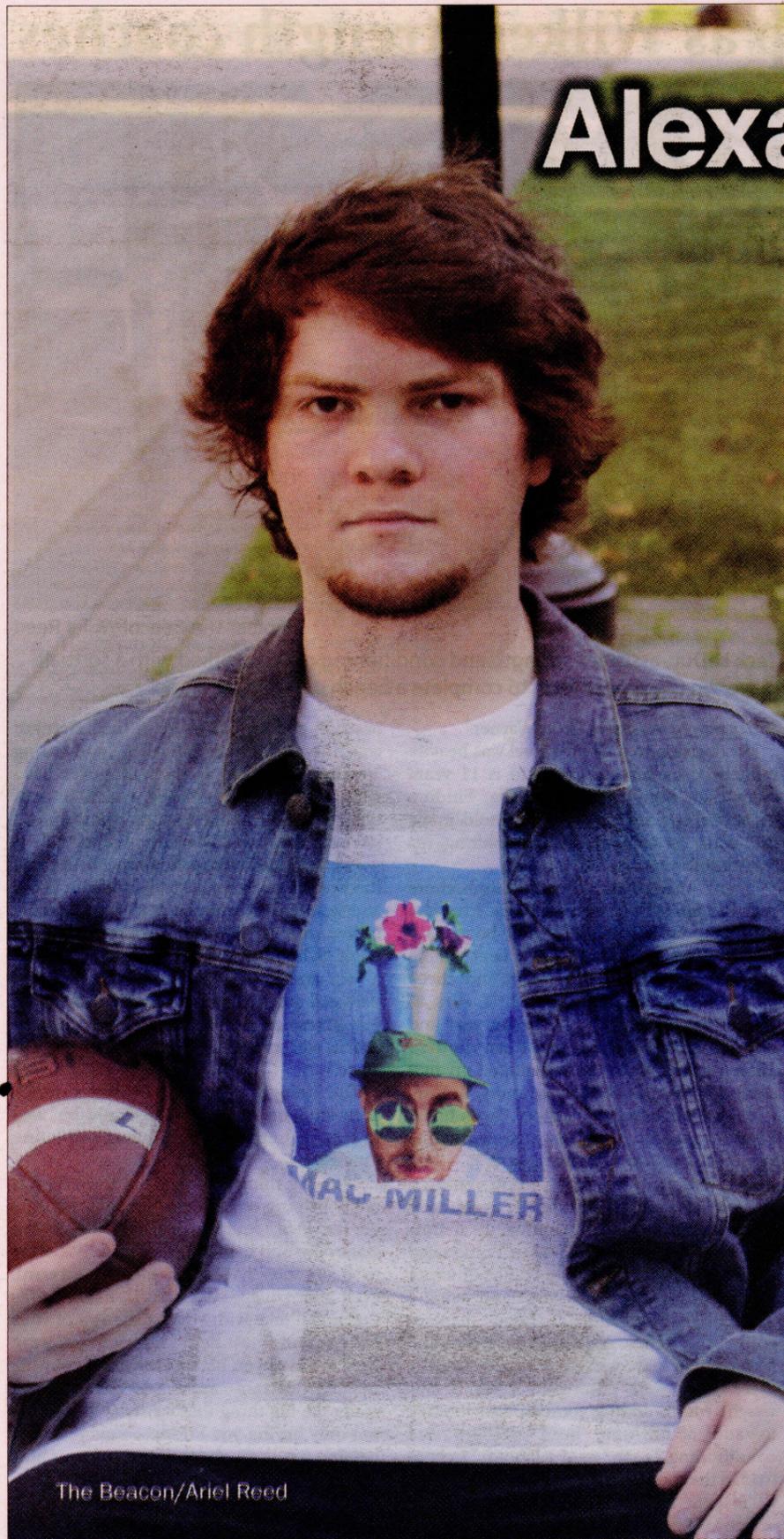
Keith Klahold, head strength and conditioning coach, set up the Earthquake bar for one of his athletes to train with.

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Getting to know...

Alexander DeSpirito

Senior Football Player



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

The Beacon Senior Spotlight

Why Alexander DeSpirito was selected: DeSpirito has recorded 35.9 average yards per punt in his career. His kicking ability has lifted the Colonels over several opponents.

Name: Alexander DeSpirito
Year: Senior
Major: Business Management
Hometown: Mountaintop, Pa.
High School: Crestwood HS
Position: Kicker/Punter

What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?
 Orange, no question.

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

My decision was impacted by distance from home, affordability and prestige of higher education.

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

I'd want my favorite actor Keith Allen (College Keith) to play me because he's had experience with roles and he knows me very well.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

Right now, I'm planning to continue my work with The Funding Zone, a high school sports fundraising company.

Favorite professor?
 Professor Kovacs from my English class. He was the funniest professor I've ever had.

Favorite memory as a Colonel?

My favorite memory is the homecoming onside kick against Alvernia and running with the VPACK.

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

I would have dinner with Mac Miller. If you know me, you know how influential his music has been on my life.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

Currently, I want to keep actively punting and playing footy. Since I won't have a season, I'd like to stay familiar with the football team.

Most influential person in your life?

My father, sister and brother are all influences in my life. They keep pushing me to advance and be successful. I don't know where I'd be without them.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

My junior year of high school I played soccer and my friends on the football team encouraged the idea of me kicking for the football team and playing soccer. The rest is history.

A quote you live your life by?

"Whether you think you can or you can't, you're always right."

Favorite thing to do during practice?

Punt, make handshakes, play catch and juggle a football.

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

"Being a Colonel" to me is being the change I want to see in the world. It's as simple as talking to new people, expanding your horizons or doing the right thing.

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

Soccer, hanging with friends and watching sports.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?

I'd like to give a major shout out to Coach Vega. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for him. I would also like to shout out all of the Wilkes residents on S. River Street for being the best friends I could ask for.

Favorite building on campus?
 UCOM.

- Compiled by Ariel Reed, Co-Sports Editor

Getting to know...

Autumn Pedron

Senior Cross Country Runner

The Beacon Senior Spotlight

Why Autumn Pedron was selected: Pedron ran her personal best 6k time last season, 25:24.3. Her efforts throughout the season have earned her this recognition.

Name: Autumn Pedron

Year: Senior

Major: Middle Level Education, Math & Science

Hometown: Pottsville, Pa.

High School: Minersville Area HS

Position: Runner

is talk with the women's team. We always have the best conversations during our runs.

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

Dancing, tutoring math and drinking Starbucks.

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

I chose Wilkes for the feel campus gave to me when I first visited. Also, the chance to be a student-athlete and compete for the love of the sport was so appealing. Once I met my coaches and walked around campus, it was a no-brainer for me.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

I would like to become a middle school math and science teacher. My favorite grade and subject to teach is sixth grade math.

Favorite memory as a Colonel?

My favorite memory is post-competition bus rides and meals with my teammates.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

I hope to have one last chance to run cross country for the Colonels.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I started running cross country in seventh grade because my hometown coaches made it seem like it would be really fun.

Favorite thing to do during practice?

My favorite thing to do during practice

Favorite building on campus?

Breiseth.

What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?

Purple.

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

I would want Leighton Meester to play me because I love the show "Gossip Girl."

Favorite professor?

Dr. Polachek.

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

John White.

Most influential person in your life?

Both my parents.

A quote you live your life by?

"You can go back to sleep and dream, or you can get up and catch your dreams."

What does "Be Colonel" mean to you?

"Be Colonel" means be the best version of you on and off the field.

Anyone to give a shout-out to?

Coach Wadas and Coach Kelsey.

- Compiled by Ariel Reed, Co-Sports Editor



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

MLB: Division series recap, staff World Series predictions

By Chris Gowarty
Sports Staff Writer

Eight teams entered the Division Series, and four of them are moving onto the semi-final round of MLB's 2020 playoffs, the League Championship Series.

In the National League, both teams who are moving onto the NLCS swept their opponents in their respective best-of-five Division Series.

The Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the San Diego Padres to move onto their fourth NLCS within the last five seasons. The Atlanta Braves defeated the Miami Marlins to participate in their first NLCS since 2001.

In the Braves-Marlins matchup, Atlanta's starting pitching shut down the Miami offense to lead the Braves to the NLCS.

Before this series, the Braves had lost their last eight Division Series, including the 2018 and 2019 seasons. In the first game, Atlanta relied more on their offense to earn the victory, outscoring the Marlins 9-5.

Ronald Acuna Jr., the very first batter of Game One, made MLB history by becoming the youngest player ever to hit a leadoff home run in the postseason.

In the next two games, Braves' rookie

starting pitchers Ian Anderson and Kyle Wright both threw scoreless outings and combined for 11.2 innings, striking out 15 Marlin batters.

The Braves remain undefeated in the 2020 postseason, with a 5-0 record while posting a 0.92 earned run average as a pitching staff (five runs allowed in 49 innings).

The Los Angeles Dodgers beat their NL West division rival San Diego Padres in the NLDS, outscoring them 23-9 in the series.

In Game Two, 2019 NL MVP Cody Bellinger helped the Dodgers with both his bat and his glove to earn the 6-5 win.

In the bottom of the fourth inning, Bellinger took a first-pitch changeup 433 feet to center field to put LA up, 4-1.

In the top of the seventh with two outs, Bellinger robbed a two-run home run from Padres shortstop Fernando Tatis Jr. – which would have put San Diego in the lead.

The Dodgers would go on to win Game Three to move into their 14th NLCS appearance.

In the American League, the Tampa Bay Rays defeated the New York Yankees in five games to move onto their first American League Championship Series since 2008. The Houston Astros defeated the Oakland

Athletics in four games to play in their fourth consecutive ALCS.

The Astros-Athletics ALDS was a record-breaking series, as both teams combined for a whopping 24 home runs (12 each), the most hit ever in a Division Series matchup.

Houston's offensive outburst came as a surprise, as the Astros' hitters combined for a .240 batting average as a team, which ranked 20th in the majors this season.

In the ALDS, the team hit .322, with Carlos Correa, Alex Bregman, Jose Altuve and Kyle Tucker all batting over .400.

The Athletics' bullpen, often praised as one of the best in the league, struggled against the Astros, posting a 6.27 earned run average in the four games played.

With this series win, the Astros became the third team in AL history since 1969 to participate in four-straight League Championship Series.

The New York Yankees fell to the Tampa Bay Rays in five games in their Division Series. Yankees outfielder Giancarlo Stanton was hot in the first three games of the series, hitting one home run in each game.

In the deciding Game Five of the series, Tampa Bay's Mike Brosseau broke the tie in the bottom of the eighth inning, taking

a 100-mph fastball from Yankees closer Aroldis Chapman over the wall in left field to lead the Rays to a 2-1 victory.

Beacon Picks

BASEBALL

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Houston Astros v. Atlanta Braves

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