

## Wilkes comes back in a classic on Homecoming Weekend

**By Sam Mullen**  
Asst. Sports Editor

It was a celebratory homecoming for the Wilkes Colonels after the football team faced off Saturday against St. John Fisher University and ended with a 28-21 win.

It was a rough start for the Colonels, as they fell into a 21-0 hole going in at halftime. The team tried to establish the run game on offense, but created short breaks for the defense who saw the Cardinals gain yards, mostly through the air.

The Cardinals started the second half where they left off, turning the Colonels over on downs and setting up in the red zone. The Cardinals missed the kick and the Colonels used this as their wake up call.

On their second drive of the third quarter, senior running back Elijah Jules got Wilkes on the board with a 38-yard touchdown run. The fight continued with an interception from senior defensive linemen Steele Hess, who returned it 54 yards to set up Wilkes at the Cardinals 17 yard line. It led to senior wide receiver Zane Grover finding senior wide receiver Jimmy Johnson in the endzone on a trick pass.

*...Homecoming cont. on p.19*



Senior quarterback Xavier Powell scrambles away from St. John Fisher defends as he grabs the win against the Cardinals 28-21 on Saturday.  
Photo by Sam Mullen



Wilkes University welcomes Jacob Kelley, page 6



Office of Diversity Initiatives hosts *Night on the Town* event, page 10



A review of Lil Tecca's fourth studio album "PLAN A," page 18



Athletes of the Week, pages 22 and 23



# News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor Emma Broda: [emma.broda@wilkes.edu](mailto:emma.broda@wilkes.edu)

## Student Government notes: Sept. 25 weekly meeting

By Kayla Bicskei

News Staff Writer

Student Government held its fifth weekly meeting of the Fall 2024 semester on Sept. 25.

This meeting addressed club recognition requests, funding requests, club reports, and Student Government team event planning.

The Student Government treasurer began the meeting with an updated budget report of \$48,376.

The Wilkes Health and Fitness Club returned for week two of two for its club recognition request.

Club meetings for the Wilkes Health and Fitness Club will be held once a month. The Student Government voted to approve the club recognition request of the Wilkes Health and Fitness Club.

The Crochet Club also returned for its week two of two club recognition request. Members voted to approve the club recognition request of the Crochet Club.

The International Student Ambassadors Club presented for their week one of two club recognition requests. The club displayed its mission to enhance the university experience for international students.

The club currently has 70 members and has four upcoming events, including a Diwali event, Dia De Los Muertos event, Panamanian Culture Day and an International Education Week.

The International Student Ambassadors Club will return next meeting for their week two of two club recognition request.

The Wilkes Chapter of It's On Us presented next with its week one of two fund requests. The chapter reported its mission to combat sexual assault.

The chapter presented its plan for three



weeks of safety-themed events and one month of events for Sexual Awareness Month. The chapter is requesting \$750 to aid in funding their upcoming week-long and month-long events, and two of their three upcoming conferences.

The Wilkes Chapter of It's On Us will return next meeting for their week two of two funding requests.

To end the presentation section of the meeting, the Student Government Executive Council presented the club reports of the Hospitality Leadership Club, NAMI Club and Cheer Club.

Student Government ended the fifth weekly meeting of the Fall 2024 semester with team planning for upcoming Student Government-hosted events.

The next meeting will occur on Oct. 2.

### Table of Contents

News.....2

Life, A&E.....7

Opinion.....14

Sports.....19

## Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

### HPSC Clothing Swap: accepting donations

Ready for a closet clean out? Donate your clothing in the Honors Office in Stark 259 prior to Oct. 22 or bring them to the Clothing Swap event Oct. 22! All monetary proceeds will be donated.

For more information, visit <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LycGaBfphJlg6EzzqkPxBm0INEwigeAskDx9xyu71M/edit?usp=sharing>

### Bonner Leader's Program offers Narcan training

The Bonner Leader's Program is working

with the Children's Service Center to provide Narcan Training on campus on November 15th, in the Savitz Lounge.

This is free training, and you will be provided with your dose of nasal Naloxone. Complete the survey by Oct. 14 to register for the event [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMTYK1dzHJJts0jj0Qyz\\_1NvTDoB-wsHxULIY-0janrMYlhQ/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMTYK1dzHJJts0jj0Qyz_1NvTDoB-wsHxULIY-0janrMYlhQ/viewform?usp=sf_link)

### HPSC Blaze Pizza fundraiser

Support the Honors Program Student Committee (HPSC) by ordering Blaze Pizza from 5-8 p.m. on Oct. 18.

Come hang out with friends and grab some yummy pizza. Show this flyer to ensure the Honors Program receives 20% of the proceeds.

### Scholarship opportunity for students of Polish descent

The Polish Room Committee Scholarship has opened applications. Applicants must write a brief essay based on the following: Choose a person of Polish descent from the list of Marie Curie, Frederic Chopin, Pope Saint John Paul II, and Andrzej Tadeusz Kosciuszko. Explain how this person deepened your appreciation of what it means to be Polish American, and what influence it has or will have on your life.

Preference will be given to applicants demonstrating financial need. This letter must be submitted, along with the applicant's name, WIN, and contact information to Allison Naumann, APKC.

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

### Upcoming Events: 2024 Fall Semester

#### September

Ongoing - Movie Ticket Sales

#### October

2 - Coffee Hour

3 - Blockbuster Bingo

10-14- Fall Recess

17 - Wilkestober Fest

22 - Honors Thrift Store

24 - Sound Showdown

28-31 - Freak Week

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: [emma.broda@wilkes.edu](mailto:emma.broda@wilkes.edu)

# President Greg Cant's contract extended through 2029

**By Andrew Marshallsay**  
*News Staff Writer*

Wilkes University has announced a contract extension for President Greg Cant.

The extension places him at the helm of the university through 2029.

Cant, a native of Australia, was named the seventh president of the university in December 2019. He began his tenure in May 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under Cant's leadership, students and faculty were able to safely return to classes in the Fall 2020 semester.

Since then, Cant's leadership brought about a number of implementations to improve the university's financial and enrollment strength, which included the restructuring of the multiple colleges on campus.

Wilkes University board of trustees chair Bill Miller is looking forward to having Cant back.

"Greg has proven to be an exemplary

leader for Wilkes over the past four years," Miller said.

"We are looking forward to seeing his leadership of a new vision, mission and values for the University," continued the chair of the board.

For Cant, his time at Wilkes has also brought about the Innovate, Engage, Thrive plan.

This plan includes goals such as advancing academic excellence and student success, promoting innovation and partnerships, strengthening financials, infrastructure and prioritizing community and service.

Cant said that he is honored to stay at Wilkes.

"I am deeply honored to continue serving as President of Wilkes University," he said.

"This institution holds a special place in my heart, and I am excited to build on our progress and lead Wilkes into its next chapter," Cant concluded.

For more information on the President's extension, visit [news.wilkes.edu](https://news.wilkes.edu) and [www.thewilkesbeacon.com](https://www.thewilkesbeacon.com).



Photo courtesy of Greg Cant

WE'RE LOOKING FOR...

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# That's So Honors: A "sweet" internship with Hershey Hotel

**By Morgan Steiner**  
*Contributing Writer*

Internship experiences can have a major impact on your future. Some students leave their internship with job offers, while others leave knowing what kind of jobs they are not interested in.

Brenda Arias, a senior majoring in hospitality leadership, had a one-of-a-kind internship experience at Hotel Hershey this past summer.

The Hotel Hershey, a AAA Four Diamond resort and Forbes Rated property, is a five-star hotel next to Hershey Park, offering accommodations and special packages for guests visiting the park. Arias worked in several areas at her Hospitality Level 1 internship.

"I was mainly responsible for

following the daily operations of the front desk department, like carrying out the check-in and check-out procedures while maintaining the Forbes standard of the property," Arias said.

She continued by saying that she "also acted as a coordinator for the Guest Relations Department, which mainly connected with the VIP guests that resided in the Villas, the sister property of the hotel."

Arias found out about the opportunity for the internship through the university.

"I actually got to speak to them directly and introduce myself at one of the career fairs I attended...a lot of previous hospitality students look to Hershey for internships, but mainly in the amusement park area, so I wanted something a little bit more concentrated

on my major so I applied for the hotel position," Arias said.

Though Arias had a tight schedule and many responsibilities, she still found time for fun, exploring Hershey and enjoying the amenities that Hershey employees have access to, like free admission to Hershey Park.

Arias echoed the importance of internships, saying that her experience has helped her gain perspective.

"It was very helpful seeing most of the concepts that I learned in my hospitality courses being actually used in the workplace.

"The experience also gave me a better understanding of what I want my career to look like and what my next steps can be."

Now that she's back on campus, Arias

said her best piece of advice is to put yourself out there.

"Opportunities aren't always handed to you in life so it's important that you're able to advocate for yourself and do what you need to do," said Arias.

"I also think that getting out of your comfort zone is greatly important as it will make you learn things about yourself that you probably otherwise wouldn't have."

Students seeking internships should attend one of the many Career Development Center's events this semester, including upcoming career fairs.

To learn more about the Honors Program, follow @wilkeshonros on Instagram.

Photos submitted by Brenda Arias



Brenda Arias, senior hospitality leadership major, spent the summer interning at the Hershey Hotel.



Arias and Kit Kat, one of Hershey's many mascots, pose for a quick pic.



# Students develop skills at CCDI's first annual Career Carnival

**By Emma Broda**

News Editor

On Sept. 26, the Center for Career Development and Internships (CCDI) hosted a Career Carnival. This event was one of the many events the CCDI has planned for this fall semester.

The Career Carnival was a way to get students excited and prepared for the upcoming career fair, which will be taking place on campus next week.

The carnival included different resources, such as the "Resume Review Station," to get feedback on resumes; the "Elevator Pitch Station," to work on fine tuning students' pitches for interviews; and the "Colonel's Clothing Closet Pop-Up," which gave students an opportunity to put together professional outfits.

The CCDI staff and guests were present to speak with students about interviews, internships and their careers.

Business recruiters from Enterprise and Children's Service Center were present to give advice and feedback to students before the career fair.

One student working for the CCDI, Kahlasia Carter, a junior nursing major, shared some information about the CCDI and the upcoming fair.

"The Career Carnival is here to promote the Career Fair, which is next Tuesday on October first," said Carter.

She continued by saying that the CCDI is "offering [an opportunity for] networking with employers and resume checking for students for the upcoming fair."

Carter also spoke more about what the CCDI offers on a regular basis.

"We offer resume building, interview workshops, the Colonel's Closet, career planning, and we host events so students can get acquainted in the field they want to work in," she said.

Molly Blaskiewicz, a senior marketing major, shared that the carnival was beneficial, even if you do not intend to go to the Career Fair.

"There's opportunities to learn how to build your resume and how to do an interview, which are all basic skills you should have no matter what you are doing," she said.

While the intent of the event was information and preparation, there was still plenty of fun at the carnival. The event hosted a Dunkin Donuts truck that handed out free samples of coffee.

Blaskiewicz said she tried the new drink.

"It was really good, it tasted like coffee ice cream."

In addition, there were lots of food options within the CCDI building including hot dogs, walking tacos and popcorn. As this event was a carnival, there were also plenty of games like

cornhole and basketball.

The CCDI also hosted gift card giveaways for students in attendance.

"Every table you went to you got a ticket, and then you could enter it into a raffle for a Visa gift card," Blaskiewicz said.

Photos by Emma Broda



Enterprise gave students on-site feedback on interview tips and resumes.



Dunkin Donuts introduced a new drink outside of the Career Carnival.



Internship Coordinator Jenna Weiss shows off the Career Carnival sign.



# Interim assistant director of diversity initiatives named

## *Wilkes University welcomes Jacob Kelley*

**By Zach Paraway**  
Sports Editor

Many people will talk about the ideals of diversity, equity and inclusion and how important it is to instill them in life. It is not often, however, that someone comes to embody those ideals and not just take them to use for their lives but to help improve the lives of those around them.

Jacob Kelley has dedicated most of their adult life to helping others and creating better lives for others around them.

Kelley joins Wilkes University for this upcoming semester but is familiar with the area from their youth.

"I accepted the position at Wilkes University because I grew up and have worked in the NEPA Luzerne County area," Kelley said.

"I have collaborated with many entities associated with Wilkes, which has allowed me to invest more time in understanding the impact of DEI within university structure. I see Wilkes University as a place where individuals grow, learn and aspire to achieve more.

"Being part of that journey for others is incredibly rewarding."

Their background before Wilkes is extensive and encompasses many DEI initiatives. After college, they worked as a medical HIV case manager with multiple nonprofit organizations. They then moved into administration as the role of workplace culture director for CAAP (Community Action Association of Pennsylvania), where they oversaw policy, procedures and initiatives related to DEI.

During this time, they also founded Mx. Kelley Queer Education LLC, where they help to oversee DEI and LGBTQIA+ training, including Safe Zone training, DEI metrics, and strategic planning for clients.

They completed a masters from Widener University in 2020 and are currently a doctoral candidate for Widener's human sexuality program.

Kelley joins Wilkes as the interim assistant director of diversity affairs. They have strong goals for the office, especially when it comes to working with and for students.

"My goals in this role are to uplift and elevate the college experience by empowering students to take control of their lives and strive for success," said Kelley.

"I also aim to assist Wilkes University in its efforts around DEI and strategic planning. I'm eager to connect with the students and be part of their journey as they navigate their futures."

When they are not at Wilkes, Kelley remains active in the local community and has a variety of hobbies.

"When I'm not working at Wilkes, running my business, or performing as my drag persona Trixy Valentine, I enjoy traveling. I love visiting different countries, catching up with friends, and ensuring I'm thriving by experiencing the world."

Kelley will oversee the Office of Diversity Affairs for the next couple months. This includes working with students and staff on programs to promote DEI across campus, such as with clubs like the Multicultural Student Coalition and the Gender and Sexuality Alliance.



**Jacob Kelley joins Wilkes as the interim assistant director of diversity initiatives.**



**Kelley meets with Multicultural Student Coalition Public Relations Officer Joshua Ermeus.**

Photos by Zach Paraway



# Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Editor-in-Chief Sydney Allabaugh at [sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu](mailto:sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu)

## Bonner Leaders seek donations for Ruth's Place

By Kailey Vogel

Special to The Beacon

The Bonner Leaders Program is collecting donations for Ruth's Place, now through Nov. 25.

"Ruth's Place House of Hope is an emergency sheltering support group for women experiencing homelessness," according to its website. The program was started in 2003 and provides women with shelter, food, personal hygiene products, and resources to get them back on their feet.

These resources include job connections, social relationships, teachings of life skills, and other case management services.

Brenda Arias is a senior hospitality leadership major with a minor in marketing. As a Bonner Leader, she has been involved with helping Ruth's Place for the past four years.

"I began volunteering with Ruth's Place my first semester of my first-year at Wilkes; now I'm in my first semester of senior year. Since that point on, it's been an established partnership that has grown over time," she said.

Her favorite part of helping aid Ruth's Place and others in need is, "the fact that I get to learn a little more about the women at the shelter."

"Working with people in need makes me more appreciative of the things that I have and it gives me more of an open mind on how I look at things. I also like the idea of using what I have to help support others."

"I think one of the most important things to remember in life is that no matter how successful you become, you're only as good as the people around you, so being able to use the resources that you have to uplift others is vital."

The Bonner Leader Program is a federal work-study program available at Wilkes that provides students with

community service and volunteer opportunities around Wilkes-Barre. Established on campus in 2021, the program encourages students to give back to their communities and help those in need. In return, students are assisted financially and educationally, preparing them with leadership skills.

Arias has been a member of the Bonner Leaders Program since her first semester.

"Being a Bonner Leader means taking what you have to uplift others in any way you can. It's more than service, even though it is a central part of it, but it goes beyond that. I think it's about thinking innovatively and being able to be resourceful."

"It's learning how to work alongside others to foster growth that can make people better off. In short, it's mainly about leaving every place you enter a little better off than it was before."

Arias suggested items that the program will be collecting, such as non-perishable food items (milk, fruits, vegetables, meat, eggs, butter, etc.), frozen foods, Tupperware containers, toilet paper, paper towels, N95s and other medical face coverings, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, bottled drinks, toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, floss, conditioner, shampoo, new clothing (sleepwear, socks, and undergarments), Tylenol, Ibuprofen, disinfectants, and Clorox wipes, to name a few.

The Bonner Leader Program is asking students and staff members to donate. Donation drop-offs can be found in the Colonel's Cupboard, located behind the Henry Student Center, or in the Honors Office, located on the second floor of the Stark Learning Center. Collections will occur now, until Nov. 25.

For more information, email Brenda Arias for the full donation list, or how to get involved.

### Let's DONATE RUTH'S PLACE WOMEN'S SHELTER

#### WHAT IS NEEDED:

DEODORANT

BODY WASH

SHAMPOO

CONDITIONER

TOOTHPASTE

SHAVING RAZORS

TOWELS

WASHCLOTHS

**DROP-OFF LOCATION: COLONEL'S CUPBOARD OR HONORS**

**PROGRAM OFFICE**

**COLLECTIONS WILL BEGINS 9/12 AND END 11/25**



**FOR THE COMPLETE DONATION LIST CONTACT:  
BRENDA.ARIAS@WILKES.EDU**



**Sydney Allabaugh:**  
COLE PIMP - Denzel Curry, Ty  
Dolla \$ign, Juicy J

**Stephen Youkoski:**  
Save Your Heart - Mayday  
Paradise

**Megan Davis:**  
Disconnected - 5 Seconds of  
Summer

**Sam Mullen:**  
Not Like Us - Kendrick Lamar

**Adam Grundt:**  
The Weeknd - Play Carti

**Leah Smith:**  
Lonely is the Muse - Halsey

**Zach Paraway:**  
O-o-h Child - The Five  
Stairships

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

# PROGRAMMING BOARD EVENTS

FALL 2024

<b>Techno Bingo</b>	8/29	<b>Sound Showdown</b>	10/24
<b>Field Day</b>	9/5	<b>Freak Week</b>	10/28-10/31
<b>Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader?</b>	9/12	<b>Comedian</b>	11/7
<b>Fiesta</b>	9/19	<b>Chillax Bingo</b>	11/14
<b>Giveaway #1</b>	9/26	<b>Giveaway #2</b>	11/21
<b>Blockbuster Bingo</b>	10/3	<b>White Elephant Bingo</b>	12/5
<b>Wilkestober Fest</b>	10/17		

EVENTS. EVERY. THURSDAY.



# Banned books celebrated, added to campus Little Free Library

**By Natalia Willians**  
Staff Writer

On Sept. 23, The Wilkes University Alpha Gamma Alpha chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Society hosted a celebration for banned books. Attendees were offered cupcakes and celebrated banned books.

In addition to this, several banned books were added to the Little Free Library, which is located outside of Kirby Hall.

Anyone borrowing books from the Little Free Library is urged to return them to the library or share it with another student to ensure as many people as possible can read a banned book.

Banned Books Week established in 1982, brings awareness to the surge of the number of books being challenged in bookstores, libraries, and schools. This year's theme was "Freed Between the Lines"

Book banning is a form of censorship, when government officials or organizations remove books from school reading lists, libraries, or bookstores due to themes, content, or ideas. According to the Free Speech Center of Middle Tennessee State University, books that are banned or

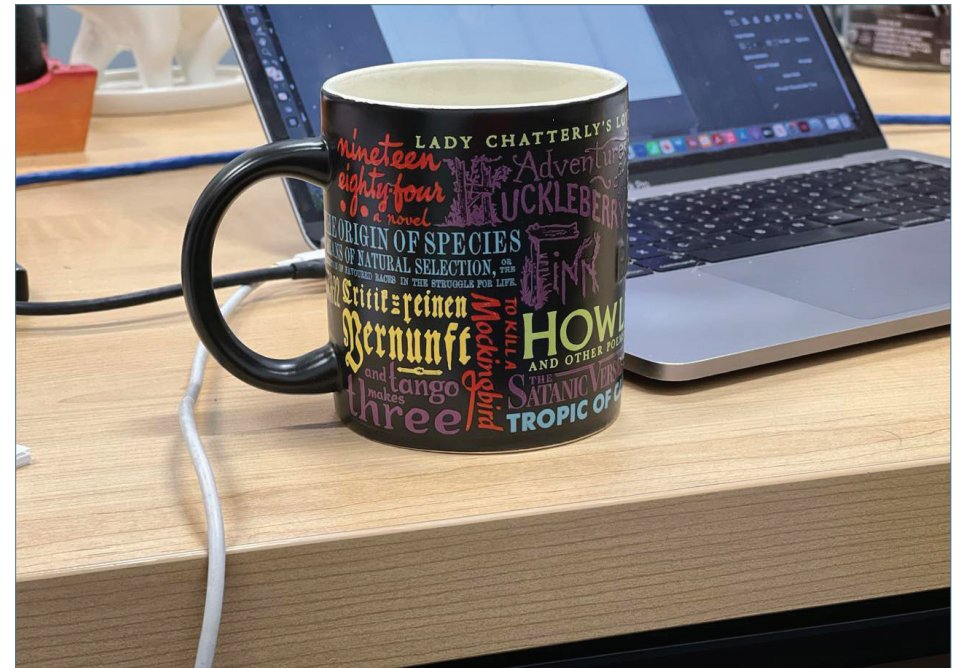
censored contain themes or ideas such as graphic violence, lack literary merit, include offensive language, or express disrespect for parents and family.

Banning and censoring books has surged in the past year. According to the American Library Association, in 2023 alone, there were 1,247 efforts to censor books and other resources in libraries, which is an 65% increase from the year before.

"I am certainly opposed to banning books—beyond those that instruct on violence and means of violence, or have some significant national security threat," said English professor Dr. Chad Stanley. "We thrive by considering other ideas and perspectives, whether historical or purely fictive and imaginative."

In total, 4,240 book titles were targeted and many of them were representing the LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC experiences and voices. When looking at the top 10 most challenged books of 2023 provided by the ALA, more than half contain themes about race and LGBTQIA+.

Books that have been banned in multiple states across the US include "Gender Queer: A Memoir," by Maia Kobabe; "The Hate U Give," by Angie Thomas; and "The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time



**Have you read a banned book lately?**

Indian," by Sherman Alexie.

Banning books with these themes makes it harder for students to access books that teach valuable lessons.

"Sexuality and gender have always been

key target areas/topics," Stanley said. "This has persisted, but we are also very sadly now in an era in which there is newly active denial of the historical realities of racism and the past enslavement of human beings."

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interested in covering  
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# Office of Diversity Initiatives: Night on the town @ La Cantina Amigon



As part of its efforts to provide learning experiences surrounding the history and customs of cultural groups, the Office of Diversity Initiatives recently took students to nearby La Cantina Amigon to enjoy a variety of foods.

Above, from left, Najhae Johnson, Shanelly Hinds, and Joey Savorsky attended the Night on the Town event, sponsored by the Office of Diversity Initiatives.

Below, from left, Shanelly Hinds, Joey Savorsky, David Hesiner and Starr Sandt enjoy dinner from La Cantina Amigon.

At top right, Jacob Kelley, interim assistant director for the Office of Diversity Initiatives joins students for dinner at La Cantina Amigon.



**Photos by  
Zachary Paraway**



# Word Scramble

*Challenge yourself to unscramble all of the words*

## Football Word Scramble



bftloloa	<input type="text"/>
cmismreag	<input type="text"/>
donw	<input type="text"/>
snnovorcie	<input type="text"/>
tarex opnti	<input type="text"/>
rsupe bwlo	<input type="text"/>
tsifr ndwo	<input type="text"/>
eastlc	<input type="text"/>
ionltaan ahhpmsinocpi	<input type="text"/>
etmhel	<input type="text"/>
howduotnc	<input type="text"/>
flga	<input type="text"/>

Answer Key:

Football Word Scramble

aflooltb

agmnmisc

wrod

noesocrv!

axrte tpion

reups wibo

sefac

istfr mwod

first down

clares

national championship

belmet

otondwculh

galf

flag

touchdown



# HOMECOMING @ WILKES

Pep Rally photographed by Shannon Slominski  
Homecoming Royalty photographed by Sam Mullen



## PEP RALLY







# HOMECOMING COURT



# Opinion

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

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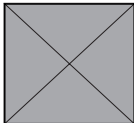
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## Our Voice

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

# Combining two major events was a poor choice

September is always a busy month at Wilkes University. Students are just getting comfortable on campus, classes are still getting underway and the school had many events going on during this time.

Two of these key events during this month are Family Day and Homecoming weekend.

Family Day, which usually takes place the second or third Saturday of September, is a chance for students to have their families come see their day-to-day lives on campus. It's great for first-year students who are still adjusting and could use the opportunity to see their families, and it works well for upperclassmen who, as the years go on, can now have more and more of their family come and see them.

Then we have Homecoming weekend, the last weekend of September or the first in October. Everyone knows what Homecoming looks like, with all the events for alumni, students and staff all weekend. Whether that is the football game, any dinner or brunch or the dance, there are events for all.

While they are both in the same month, they take place during different weekends to give space for not only students but for the campus as a whole. That was until this year with the combination of Family Day and Homecoming weekend into one this year, which led to a variety of issues.

Many of the problems about the weekend revolved around the same thing, space. This campus is simply not big enough to support both parents and alumni properly.

First and most obvious of all, parking. While no places on campus closed their parkings lots thankfully, they were all full due to the sheer amount of people. Not only was all the parking gone, but everywhere you turned, an event was going on. While this can be seen as fun and great for the campus as a whole, it comes off as disingenuous when on any other weekend on this campus, hardly anything happens.

The campus shouldn't necessarily feel responsible for putting on events every single weekend for the campus as a whole, but they should take more of a responsibility of making events for the

students in the same breadth that they do for alumni. The student leaders and clubs should not be solely responsible for creating that; that idea has led to many of our student leaders feeling overwhelmed and underappreciated. That responsibility has to fall more on the offices within this university.

Another issue with the weekend was the complete lack of information given to the students. Many students had to find out everything about parents' weekend from their parents. This included a change to now charging for events for the weekend.

While it is understandable that there is a need to charge the parents for events being held by the school, students need to also understand this information. That becomes especially true when parents call their child asking why it is now \$20 per person to preregister for the weekend.

This is not even to mention the parking issues for the football game and not widely publicizing to the students about how to get parking.

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

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

Email: sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu

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

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



# The Icebox: Wilkes spirit through “Pokemon Go?”

By “Freeze”

*Opinion Staff Writer*

Do you remember back in 2016 when GameFreak shattered the capabilities of mobile gaming through their revolutionary title, “Pokémon Go?” You may have noticed how it became the talk of the town for adults and children alike. The truth is, the game is very much still alive to this day, even here on Wilkes campus.

If you are not familiar with “Pokémon Go,” it is a mobile game in which players are tracked in real-time by GPS so their avatar in-game can travel among the world of the Pokémon. Every so often there are Pokémon that appear and can be caught with pokéballs. All is done through augmented reality, an advanced camera software that combines the digital world with real life.

Places in real life play an important role in the game. Significant areas are labeled as Pokéstops, where players can harvest items like fruits, gifts and more catching equipment.

Some places which are even more important are gyms. Here, players can station a chosen Pokémon to defend a

gym claimed by their team. There are three teams: Instinct (Yellow), Valor (Red) and Mystic (Blue).

If a gym is not claimed by your team, you have the option of running a 6-team against the Pokémon stationed at the gym in order to defeat and conquer it, reaping many gym-specific rewards and enabling your teammates around the area to help defend the newly claimed gym.

Now, how exactly can one show Wilkes spirit through such a game? It’s quite simple, really. First of all, many students on campus are likely to check-in through “Pokémon Go” at least once per day. During this time, they are very likely to participate in gym battles.

Normally, you can get a good idea of the dominating team per area by seeing the color of each gym in proximity. When I check the gyms that are on campus, they are never the same color. This means that there are plenty of competitors somewhere on campus who are always ready to play.

It gets even more interesting than just competing over gym locations. Players who friend each other are able to trade gifts and send each other postcards of

places they have visited through the game. A group of players can organize a physical meeting in which they are all able to trade and showcase their Pokémon.

It would be very interesting to have people on campus be able to bond over this game by setting up meetings on campus. In a way, we can encourage everyone that likes to play the game to connect with one another and create a Wilkes-wide program, perhaps even setting up adventures together. It would even be beneficial in the healthy sense in that it provides means of getting fresh air, physical exercise and even relieving some stress.

Finally, the biggest reason to connect with others in “Pokémon Go” is the Shadow Raids, courtesy of Team Rocket. The Shadow Raids are an attempt for Team Rocket to take over gyms by placement of eggs. These eggs have a timer to let players nearby know when the raid will begin.

Basically, a gigantic, shadow and often mega-evolved Pokémon hatches from the egg and takes over the gym. The raid only lasts for a limited time, but it is important that a player participates.

When the raid begins, players who wish to participate can queue into a team, each with their own six Pokémon. The raid boss is supposed to be extremely difficult, so it will take all of the players working together to defeat it. The more people in the raid, the easier it will be to defeat the boss, free the gym and reap the rewards.

Once the boss is defeated, it shrinks back to normal size and players have the opportunity to catch it before it flees. The Pokémon will be in shadow form, meaning it needs to be purified before it can evolve or be powered up. The boss is usually a very powerful and rare Pokémon, so defeating them is quite rewarding.

There you have it, plenty of reasons to connect with your friends through this wonderful game and to make new friends on campus. Perhaps you forgot about how amazing “Pokémon Go” is and now you will log back in after many a year.

In any case, I think this is a great way to create some unity and competition among the Colonels. At the very least, we can do better than our rivals across the Square.

## Why 1990’s and 2000’s music is better than modern music

By Natalia Williams

*Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff Writer*

Ever since I was little, I’ve always remembered hearing my parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles always say, “People don’t make music like they used to.”

I never understood why they said that, until I was old enough to grasp music and understand it. As I got older, I started to realize what they were saying was true.

I have been surrounded by music from the ‘90s and 2000s practically all my life. Listening to music from back then and comparing it to now, it’s completely different.

I’ve always gravitated toward throwback music because of the

nostalgic feeling, the messages the music gave and just the overall feeling I get when I hear my favorite throwback track.

Listening to the music artists used to write back then, I feel there was more passion, emotion and deep feelings put into it. Artists cared about the quality of the production and the lyrics during this time period.

Songs in that era quickly became iconic pieces of music that allowed their listeners to connect with them on a deeper level. We do have some artists who are excellent writers nowadays, but a lot of the songs that are mainstream almost sound the same production wise and tell the same story lyrically.

During the ‘90s and 2000s, we saw a

rise in new and diverse genres. There were artists of many different genres releasing different and unique things.

During this day and age, I feel even though artists are in the same genre, their music still sounds the same.

Let’s use the pop genre for an example. If I turn on a playlist with the newest pop hits, they are most likely gonna sound the same production wise or storyline. Granted, most 2000’s pop songs gave the same vibe, but each had a different quality that made them stand out and sound different.

I feel there aren’t any artists today that are simply iconic musicians. In my opinion, I have yet to see an artist genuinely make a statement and contribution to the music industry like artists used to do.

Yes, we have artists like Taylor Swift, but I don’t believe that she has made an impact on music like someone like Mariah Carey or Britney Spears.

Finally, the feeling I get when listening to throwback music is something indescribable. I love turning on a song and instantly getting taken back to a moment I had in my childhood. Whether it’s a good or bad time, it’s always so comforting to reminisce and cherish different memories.

Even though I love some of the music that is coming out recently, I will always stick to my ‘90s and 2000s to listen to on a daily basis due to the connections I have and can make with the tracks, the diversity of the songs and that feeling of traveling back in time whenever I hit play on my playlist.



# “Batman: Mask of the Phantasm” is wildly underrated

## *Why “Batman: Mask of the Phantasm” is the best Batman movie*

By Leah Smith

Asst. Opinion Editor

Sept. 21 was Batman Day. Across the world, fans celebrated this day honoring the Caped Crusader by posting memes, comic panels and consuming any sort of Batman media they could get their hands on.

During Batman Day weekend, AMC theaters participated in the celebration by re-releasing fan favorite movies starring the world's greatest detective by showing screenings of “Batman” starring Michael Keaton, “Batman Forever” starring Val Kilmer and “Batman: Mask of the Phantasm” starring Kevin Conroy as the voice of Batman.

While rewatching “Batman: Mask of the Phantasm,” I was able to reintroduce myself to the world of Batman in the nostalgic realm of its animated series where this movie's setting takes place. As someone who has read Batman comics and consumed multitudes of Batman media my whole life, it is safe to say that “Batman: Mask of the Phantasm” is the best Batman film adaptation by far.

Right away, the audience is immersed by the gothic urban world of Gotham City and how Eric Radonski and Bruce Timm's animated portrayal of Gotham is unlike any other, with its dark city colors contrasting with the blue, gray and yellow ensemble of Batman's suit and the bombastic action scenes that pop among the grim setting.

Animation can turn some audiences away due to the ingrained idea that animation is solely entertainment for children, but that is not the case at all and especially not for this film.

The animation and 2D designs of the characters and setting can be appreciated by all audiences. Also, I believe that animation is the best medium to tell stories adapting comic book characters because not only are the animators able to achieve character and set designs that are impossible to



achieve in live action, but they are also able to more accurately depict characters that correspond to their comic book counterparts. This brings me to the highlight of the film and why I think more audiences should give this film a watch and that is the story.

Paul Dini, Alan Burnett, Bruce Timm, Martin Pasko and Michael Reaves band together to tell a story of Batman that has not been explored very much in other adaptations and even incorporate new ideas and characters to expand themes and layers to Batman's character that are often not talked about. The story focuses on Batman's identity and that his becoming of Batman may have been destined ever since that night in Crime Alley.

Kevin Conroy had his career-best performance as Batman/Bruce Wayne in this film by emphasizing the conflicting and powerful emotions Bruce expresses whether he is being an intimidating figure as Batman or pouring out his sorrow as Bruce Wayne.

A notable scene is in a flashback where he is frustrated about what to do with his future after falling in love

with Andrea Beaumont, the love interest and how he would be able to balance out being Batman while having someone in his life waiting for him. He goes out to the cemetery to visit the grave of his parents and begs for his parents' forgiveness for losing sight of his mission to take down crime.

As his tears intertwine with the rain, he tells them, “I didn't see this coming. I didn't count on being happy.” Shortly, Andrea shows up and tells him that perhaps his parents sent her to be the future that they would've always wanted for him.

This scene and countless others like this exemplify what makes this movie as outstanding as it is. The movie focuses a lot on Batman's psychological issues as well as having an intriguing mystery of the identity of the villain, the Phantasm.

The Phantasm has been taking out a bunch of Gotham's notorious mobsters and the city has been questioning whether or not this is Batman's doing and the police even start to turn against him.

Batman has even fought off the

Phantasm, but when he is not in combat with the mysterious foe, he is uncovering the reason why the Phantasm is going after the mob and what past they have with them.

At the end of the movie, Batman finds out both the identity of the Phantasm and their ties to the mob, which changes everything for both Batman and the Phantasm. This movie also has Mark Hamill as the Joker who is as charismatic as always and plays a pivotal role in the film towards the end.

This movie is a triumph as both a Batman film and a tragic/romance and mystery film. The romance between Bruce and Andrea is doomed from the start and the audience continues to feel more and more heartbroken when they realize that both of them have their dark pasts and those pasts and how they affected them will keep them from ever being close to each other.

This movie brings something so interesting to the table because it dives into Batman's psychology that I have never seen done before in a film.

Some films have lightly touched on the topic of Batman's dual identities and asks, “Who is really the mask?”

But this film asks that question and goes further than that with its emotional performances and layered themes when it comes to Batman's identity and how it affects his life and whether or not his fate was destined or if it was all his own doing taking on an impossible task that he knows he will have to fight forever.

I cannot recommend this movie enough, whether you are a casual Batman fan or a hardcore Batman fanatic and haven't checked this movie out.

This movie is intriguing and thought provoking while also captivating in its 2D art world with its colorful characters and all-out performances.

Graphic by Laura De Lora



# First-person vs third-person POV: Which is better?

**By Shawn Carey**  
Opinion Staff Writer

It's pretty hard to describe the many important decisions an author must make when they start working on a new book, especially when it comes to fiction stories. Voice, themes, tone, genre and imagery are just a few of the literary devices an author must manage.

Not all devices are of equal importance, however. I have always believed that one of the most important aspects of writing a fiction book is deciding what point of view it's going to be told in.

As I'm sure many know, in writing there are three points of view: first, second and third. For the sake of convenience, I'm not really going to talk about second person point of view. Second-person isn't really used in fiction stories. Off the top of my head the only example that I can think of are those old choose your own adventure books.

It has recently come to my attention that there is a bit of discord around what point of view a story uses, mainly among the "Booktok" crowd. I've seen countless videos of readers complaining about the use of third-person in books, with many of which outright saying that they refuse to read in books that are written in the POV.

I was honestly a bit taken aback by this discovery. I understand that everyone has their own preferences; I'm not faulting anyone for having an opinion. However, I do find it a bit strange that there's such a vocal hatred for the POV.

In this article, I want to find out if the hate is justified, or if everyone is just overreacting. I'm going to be comparing their strengths and weaknesses, what makes them unique and how they should be used.

Before we officially get started, I want to say that I have experience writing in both POVs. Much of what I'm talking about will be based around personal works and what I've learned from them.

First-person point of view is a way of telling a story from the perspective of a specific character. Pronouns such as "I," "me," "myself" and "we" are the most commonly known ones.

First-person is used quite often in our current literary environment. As of right now it's most common to see it be used in romance and romance-adjacent stories. The "Twilight" series by Stephen Meyer is a pretty good example.

There's a lot of really interesting things an author can do with a first-person perspective. For instance, first person is often used to limit what the reader knows to only what the narrator knows. This leads me to my favorite reason for using first person: the characters.

First person is able to make a story feel extremely intimate and conversational. The reader is directly involved in the characters' thoughts; we get to know how they feel before anyone else. This includes things they don't know.

You can build tension much easier than you can in third person. Both the character and reader are kept in the dark. You're going through the story together.

As I mentioned before, romance is a great genre for first-person. However, I would make the argument that mystery may be an even better genre for the POV, mainly due to the limited POV the reader has, which in a way, turns them into amateur detectives.

Moving on, next we have third-person point of view. Third person has it where the narrator is not part of the story and instead uses third-person pronouns, like "his" and "her," to describe the characters' actions.

Third person is overall seen as a lot less personal than first person. However, that isn't necessarily a bad thing.

The POV gives us access to multiple characters' perspectives, which helps the reader to feel more empathetic and attached to them. It's also much easier to jump around to different scenes, helping build out the world around the characters.

Speaking of world building, third person allows for more detailed scene description, making it the ideal POV for fantasy novels. You're beyond a single character's point of view; you can describe everything about a given location, even if they don't know anything about it.

There are actually multiple types of third-person points of view in writing: omniscient, limited, and objective.

As the name suggests, omniscient has the narrator as this all-knowing being. They have the ability to share the thoughts and feelings of every single character, as well as their own opinions.

Then there's my personal favorite: limited. The narrator can only see what the protagonist experiences and thinks and perceives other characters through the protagonist's eyes. If you think that this sounds a lot like first-person, you would be correct. It has all the important elements of first, just with different pronouns.

Lastly, there's objective. The narrator uses an observational tone and only describes what is seen and heard. The narrator doesn't usually express or understand the characters' thoughts or feelings. This one is probably my least favorite out of the three. I personally

think that a story needs to be somewhat biased for the sake of its story.

Third-person works really well with fantasy and sci-fi stories. The wider point of view allows for much more complex storytelling and world exploration, two things that are especially important in the previously mentioned genres.

Third person is usually harder to write, especially with newer writers. You can very easily lose the plot, mainly by spending too much time describing a singular location.

Now that we have everything out there, which one is better?

I honestly don't believe that one is better than the other. Yeah I know, that's a bit of a cop out.

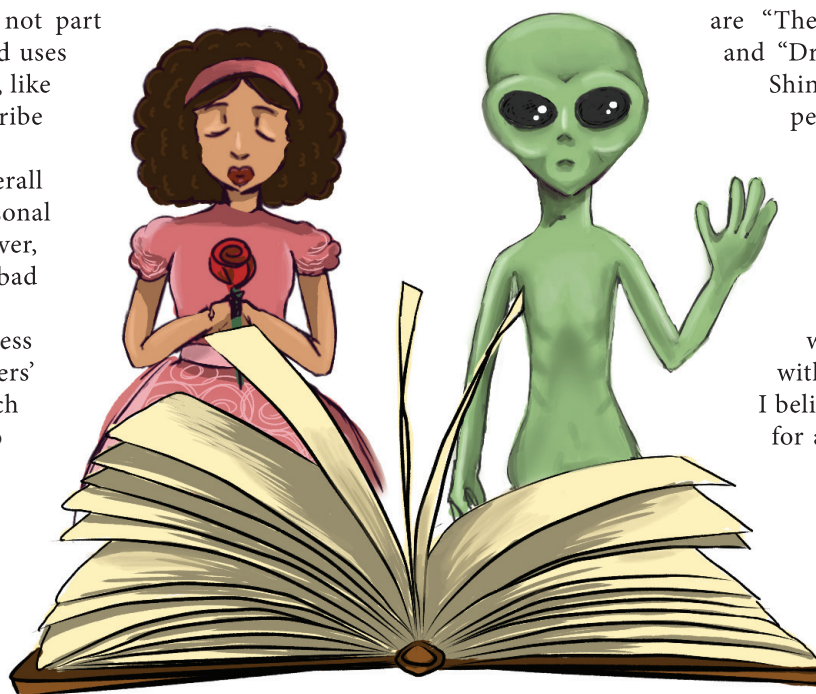
After going through everything I must say, I honestly don't think that I can say that I like one more. Sure, while I may prefer to write in third-person, I'm constantly using first-person techniques.

I think that it depends mainly on the genre. Romance works really well with first-person so it makes sense why a romance-focused reader may like first-person more. The same goes with third-person and fantasy.

Even with that, there are genres that work well with both. Let's look at horror. Two of the most popular horror novels are "The Shining" by Stephen King and "Dracula" by Bram Stoker. "The Shining" uses an omniscient third-person narrator for its story.

Meanwhile, "Dracula" is told through old journal entries, making it first-person.

The world of literature is an extremely complex place. I understand why a person would want to stick exclusively with one genre or POV. However, I believe that it would be beneficial for a person to read outside their comfort zone every once in a while. After all, you'll never know what you might like. Perhaps you may even have a new favorite way of reading.



Graphic by Maria Gonzalez



# A review of Lil Tecca's fourth studio album "PLAN A"

**By Logan Colonna**

*Asst. Opinion Editor*

If you're like me and disapproved of Future's most recent release "MIXTAPE PLUTO," then you may have been steered into listening to a project that released the same night. For me, this was Lil Tecca's fourth studio album, "PLAN A." Coming off of his successful 2023 album, "TEC," I expect Lil Tecca to deliver on this album as well.

As always, we'll dive into how Lil Tecca did on this project. Overall, I believe that he did pretty well.

He does what he usually does on his tracks and simply raps over the instrumentals with ease. Each beat is made just for him so it's hard for him to not sound good from track to track.

Some standout songs are "TASTE" and "I CAN'T LET GO." As for "TASTE," I thoroughly enjoyed what Tecca did sonically. I loved his flow and vocals during the entire track. I thought it merged amazingly well with the production of the song.

On "I CAN'T LET GO," we see Tecca imitate the feature artist, Don Toliver, and I loved everything about his verses. I see myself liking quite a bit of Don Toliver songs, so this comes as no surprise to me. On top of this, Tecca continues to rap his heart out when stops copying Don, showing off how he grew his rapping capabilities.

Side note, random lyric that I'm bringing up simply because I thought it was smart and clever. Off of "4U" we have this lyric, "Her and her friends come. She gettin' way too physical, I'm callin' AND1." AND1 being a term used when a player is fouled

for being too physical in basketball. I heard this lyric while listening to the album and gave out a chuckle when I first heard it. At the end of the day, Lil Tecca did great in my book.

This next section is short this time around since there is only one feature on the album. That being Don Toliver off of "I CAN'T LET GO." Don has been on one as of now, most recently releasing his fourth studio album, "HARDSTONE PSYCHO," this album being my personal favorite.

As for his feature, I love it. In all reality, this is more of Don Toliver's song than it is Tecca's. Tecca only has one verse while Don has three choruses and his own verse on the track. Per usual, he offers melodic raps for both his verse and chorus, those of which I enjoy. With nothing else to really say, I believe that the feature on the album was an outstanding addition to the record.

Moving onto the production of the project. For the most part, "PLAN A" offers the typical trap beats you would encounter while listening to present-day trap music. With this being said, I do still have a few standout tracks that I believe are great sonically. This includes "TASTE," "I CAN'T LET GO," "TIME & A PLACE" AND "ALL THE TIME."

"TASTE" gives out a very smooth instrumental which matches Lil Tecca music style.

"I CAN'T LET GO" offers a faster beat than usual to match Don Toliver's rock approach to his music. This comes as no surprise since Don covers most of the runtime on the track.

Next, "TIME & A PLACE" opens up with an ethereal instrumentation before the beat drops and goes into the main portion of the song. The usual trap production style

is used here but some background sounds are used to make it just different enough.

Lastly, "ALL THE TIME" yet again softens the beat and allows for Tecca to get slightly more melodic than usual. Just like "TIME & A PLACE," this track isn't all that different from the rest of the tracks, but does offer slightly different sounds that helps differentiate it from other tracks. With this, the production is good on the album.

Next up, the replayability of the record. While the album isn't too long, clocking in at 44 minutes, the album does start to become a drag near the last third of the runtime.

Eighteen tracks is near the limit of what I'd like from an album, but these tracks apart from the few standouts I talked about all sound the same. This makes a few three-minute songs seem like one really big song, and it makes the album seem like it'll never end.

On the other hand, I did come back a few times to the album simply for the amazing transitions from track to track. I love transitions purely because most artists let the instrumental play from one



to the next, leaving the production having a chance to shine. Although the transitions are great, it doesn't outweigh the negative of the album having too many songs that sound alike. Because of this, the album's replayability is mediocre at best.

With all points being accounted for, I for one believe that this album was decent, despite my complaints. While there are multiple things holding this album back, there are various things such as Lil Tecca's performances, Don Toliver's inclusion and some of the production that all bring the album up.

Because of this, Lil Tecca's "PLAN A" gets a 6 out of 10 from me.

Graphic by Laura De Lora

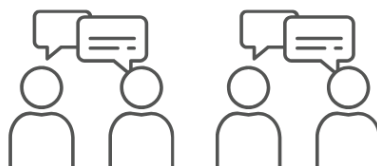
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# Sports

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

## ...Homecoming, cont. from page 1

The momentum continued into the fourth quarter as Hess forced yet another turnover for the Cardinals. Jules was able to get a three-yard touchdown, tying the game with only three minutes.

Finally, with 56 seconds left on the clock, senior defensive back Donnell Mackey-Woodson intercepted a pass and ran 65 yards for a pick-six. After another hold by the defense, the comeback was secured with a 28-21 win for the Colonels.

Senior quarterback Xavier Powell completed six passes with a total of 66 yards and 23 rushing yards. Junior kicker Nick Valpone was successful on all four attempts for field goals and earned 100 career points during the game. Along with the pick-six, Mackey-Woodson had two pass-breakups, tying him for the team high.

The Colonels open up conference play next week where they will travel to Juniata College on Friday, Oct., 4th at 6 p.m.



Junior running back Ben Contella prepares to receive the ball.



Junior kicker Nick Valpone succeeded on all four field goal attempts and earned 100 career points during the game.

Photos by Sam Mullen

## Fall season check-in: Wilkes University golf team

**Andrew Marshall**  
Sports Staff Writer

With just a few weeks left in the first part of the season, both of Wilkes University's golf teams are gearing up for the final stretch. The men's team currently holds a record of 3-2-1, while the women's team holds a current record of 2-2 on the season.

Playing two parts of the season in the fall and spring semester, the entire season takes place over the span of the school year.

For the men's team it is their second in the Landmark Conference. Last season, the team finished with an overall record of 14-5, with an 8-1 record in the fall and a 6-4 record in the spring campaign.

Last spring, the Colonels placed eighth overall in the Landmark Championships,

above ninth place Susquehanna and 10th place Lycoming.

Most recently, the men's team defeated Misericordia 332-446 in a win at Huntsville Golf Club on Sept. 21. Senior Cole Jungwirth led all players earning a medal in the process while shooting 3 over par, with a score of 75. Matthew Carlson played his best round of the season, shooting a 79 on the day.

Looking ahead to the rest of the season, the Colonels face off against the University of Scranton on Oct. 5, Penn State Wilkes-Barre on Oct. 6, and Misericordia on Oct. 12.

After that, Oct. 26 and 27 will be the Landmark Conference Fall Preview which will end the fall campaign. In last fall's preview, the Colonels finished ninth over

the two day event, with Drew University taking the title.

The women's team is also competing in the Landmark for the second time this season. Last season, the team finished 7-7 overall, with a 2-4 record in the fall and a spring record of 5-3.

In last spring's championships, the Colonels placed fifth overall, above teams such as Susquehanna, Juniata and Elizabethtown.

On Sept. 28, the team faced off against King's and Marywood in a tri-match at home from the Wyoming Valley Country Club. On the day, the Colonels had a score of 275 on the card.

For the Monarchs and Pacers, they shot 332 and 336 respectively. Kyleen McCance set a program record during the tri-

match, shooting a career best of 72 on the scorecard.

For the rest of the season, the Colonels are back in action on Oct. 6 against Misericordia and FDU-Florham in a home tri-match at the Wyoming Valley Country Club in Hanover Township, Pa. Later in the month, the colonels travel to Irem Country Club in Dallas, Pa. to take on Misericordia.

Ending the season, similarly to the men's team will be the Landmark Fall Preview.

The Colonels did not participate in the event last fall, with Catholic University taking the title.

For more information regarding the Wilkes University Golf Team, visit [www.gowilkesu.com](http://www.gowilkesu.com) and stay tuned with The Beacon.



# Q&A with Wilkes University baseball coach Mike Guy

**Stephen Youkoski** (Interview)

*Managing Editor*

**Andrew Marshall** (Transcription)

*Sports Staff Writer*

The Beacon's Stephen Youkoski sat down with Wilkes Baseball Coach Mike Guy to discuss the upcoming season.

Last year, the Colonels amassed a record of 22-16 with an 11-13 record in Landmark Conference play.

**Q (Youkoski):** How long have you been at Wilkes?

**A (Coach Guy):** I've been here going on my second season.

**Q:** Where were you coaching prior to coming to the university?

**A:** The last 11 years, I was at the University of Scranton coaching in the same conference, the Landmark Conference.

**Q:** Do you have any other experience aside than being a head coach?

**A:** Associate head coach, assistant coach, played in college, coached a local travel team as well.

**Q:** Where did you play at in college?

**A:** I played at Salem Community College in South Jersey, then I went to my four year college at University of Maryland - Eastern Shore down by Ocean City, Md.

**Q:** Why did you decide to come and coach for Wilkes University?

**A:** I really liked the majors that were offered here. I think Wilkes provides a number of interesting majors as well as the master's programs. Being local, from Scranton, I've always been familiar with Wilkes and their sports programs. I thought this was a really great place to recruit student athletes with the variety of majors and the great facilities we have.

**Q:** How did you feel about the first season in the landmark conference?

**A:** First year, pretty good. Would've liked to win the championship, but overall we went over .500. We were very familiar with the landmark conference, as a lot of



**Stephen Youkoski conducts interview with Wilkes Baseball Head Coach Mike Guy.**

the teams we might have played out of conference in years prior. Then coaching at Scranton, knowing those different programs in the Landmark Conference, it gave us a little bit of a headstart with getting involved in the Landmark.

**Q:** How important do you think it was going .500 for the younger guys on the team?

**A:** I think it was really important. I think we were a really young team. We graduated five seniors on the team, but we have a majority of the guys coming back this year. We had, whether they were freshman, sophomores, or juniors, they played significant roles. With the incoming freshman class as well, we are used to the conference and set up. We know the different styles of play that each team has. Some teams are trying to out hit you, other teams are trying to outrun you. Some teams have power arms, some teams have a crafty righty or crafty lefty. Just being more familiar with the style of play of each of the Landmark Conference teams will definitely help us out this year.

**Q:** How do you feel that past season had an influence on recruiting?

**A:** I think that for three or four weeks we were in the top 25 in the country. Recognized by the NCAA so that certainly help with recruiting when we were doing really well in the beginning of the season. I think the freshman coming in, when they saw the facilities, they saw the majors, they

met the players and coach staff, I think it was a really good recruiting year for our freshman class coming in; especially with the success we had in our first year

**Q:** Do you expect to see those top 25 rankings again? If so, do you have a sense of how often we can be in that position?

**A:** I hope every year. I hope we win the Landmark every year. Ultimate goal is to make a regional run, postseason run hopefully. Get to a world series and give ourselves a chance to compete for a national title. It comes with a lot of hard work and sacrifice, especially with being a division 3 athlete. There's no money involved, no NIL deals involved. Were not really sponsored by anybody. Guys who come here are firstly students, secondly athletes. They have a true passion for the game and there's no extrinsic rewards they're receiving for playing the sport. It's all intrinsic and a lot of self motivation

**Q:** How do you think a local team like Misericordia going on such a run, how does it affect our guys?

**A:** I think it really inspires them because they are 15 minutes down the road. If they can do it, why can't we do it? I know a lot of our guys know the Misericordia guys as well, whether they played with them in high school or they played against them in college. Some of them play with some of the Misericordia players in collegiate leagues. Coach Egbert over there for Misericordia has done a phenomenal job the last 15 years, 20 years that he's been there. We're trying to do the same thing here at Wilkes. Hopefully we get a chance to take that title from Misericordia and bring it back to Wilkes

**Q:** What is your favorite memory here at Wilkes?

**A:** My favorite memory would be when we played Catholic. In the eighth inning, we were down by four runs, and we had an 11 run inning. So, Catholic was another top 25 team in the country, went to regionals. We came back and we won the game by six runs that day. It was the biggest inning we had, it was at home in front of our fans. It was against a conference opponent, which was one of the best innings I've seen coach collegially, against one of our in conference opponents.

For more information regarding the upcoming baseball season and schedule, which will be released later this year, visit [www.gowilkesu.com](http://www.gowilkesu.com) or the Landmark Conference at [www.landmarkconference.org](http://www.landmarkconference.org). See the full interview on the Wilkes Now YouTube page.

**Watch the  
full interview  
on YouTube:  
@wilkesnow7145**



# WNBA announces award winners for the 2024 season

## *Wilson MVP, Clark Rookie of the Year*

**Ava Tureen**  
Sports Staff Writer

The Women's National Basketball Association recently announced numerous award winners now that the season has concluded.

This year they gave 17 awards to players and coaches throughout the league. This year's season set records for the league being the most viewed season in its history.

On Sept. 22, the league named star forward for the Las Vegas Aces, A'ja Wilson, the Most Valuable Player in a unanimous vote, the second to do so as such. Wilson has been awarded MVP three times since 2020 and has set the single-season scoring record, averaging 26.9 points.

After a storied college career, Caitlin

Clark came into the league with all eyes on her. She proved to be worth the hype, winning Rookie of the Year in a unanimous vote. She set a plethora of records during her season, but the biggest achievement was her leading her team from the first overall pick to the playoffs, having a seven-win improvement for the Indiana Fever.

Connecticut Sun forward Dijonai Carrington took home the Most Improved Player Award after an immense improvement in the fourth season of her career. Starting every game for the first time in her career, she saw a jump in her numbers across the board as she helped to guide her team to the second seed in the Western Conference.

The Defensive Player of the Year award was won by Napheesa Collier, forward for the Minnesota Lynx. This is her first time

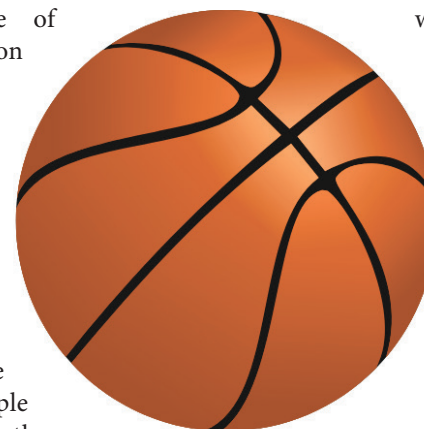
with the award in her six-year career. She won after averaging 1.91 steals and 1.41 blocks on the season. Wilson came in second for the award, flipping the results for the MVP award where Collier came in second to Wilson.

Coach and Executive of the Year awards were won by Cheryl Reeve of the Minnesota Lynx. Reeve adds these awards to her career as she now holds the most COY awards of any coach in WNBA history, this being her fourth. It is her second EOY award, making her only the second executive to win the award multiple times. Dan Padover is the other. This comes after leading the Lynx to

a franchise best 30-10 record, the second best record of the league.

The awards were announced over the past week by the WNBA before the start of their playoffs, which are currently underway as of writing this issue.

Additional information on the Women's National Basketball Association and the awards, can be found on ESPN.



Graphic by Sydney Allabaugh

# First four weeks of NFL season riddled with surprises

**Adam Grundt**  
Asst. Sports Editor

With the NFL season often comes many surprises. This season, there are plenty.

Arguably, the biggest surprise of the season thus far is the Minnesota Vikings. Projected prior to the season to finish at the bottom of their division, they have won four straight games to start the 2024 campaign. Most recently, the team traveled to Green Bay and defeated the Packers 31-29. After first-round draft pick JJ McCarthy suffered a season ending injury in training camp, seasoned veteran Sam Darnold, with the help of star wide receiver Justin Jefferson, has led the Vikings to four straight wins.

On the other side of this week's game in Green Bay, the Packers are 2-2 to begin the 2024 season when most critics thought that this could be their year. Jordan Love missed weeks

two and three with an injury and was captaining the offense when the team fell to Minnesota in week four as well as when they lost to Philadelphia in week one.

Closer to campus, the Philadelphia Eagles are coming off a surprising loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in week four. The Eagles are dealing with the "injury bug" in their receiver room, with their two best wide receivers in AJ Brown and Devonta Smith dealing with injuries.

Elsewhere in Philadelphia's division, the Washington Commanders are experiencing great production from their newest quarterback: Jayden Daniels. The rookie quarterback from LSU has been putting up outstanding numbers throughout the first four weeks of this new season. As it stands right now, he is the most likely contender to win the offensive rookie of the year award. Daniels's Commanders (3-1) are atop the NFC North as it stands through

four weeks, when many thought they would finish at the bottom.

The Chicago Bears are experiencing a somewhat mixed start to the season. In week one, they defeated the Tennessee Titans, and then dropped two straight road games to the Houston Texans and Indianapolis Colts. First-overall draft pick Caleb Williams set the Chicago Bears record for passing yards in a single game by a rookie in week three against Indianapolis. However, he threw for two interceptions in week two against Houston.

With a not-so-trustful offensive line, strong defense, and promising quarterback, fans are dealing with different levels of production throughout the first four games. However, they are ecstatic for the potential that comes with a prospect like Williams.

As of Monday morning, three undefeated teams remain heading into week five of the NFL season. The Minnesota Vikings (4-0), the reigning

Super Bowl champion Kansas City Chiefs (4-0), and the Seattle Seahawks (3-0). It would have been four, however the Buffalo Bills took a big loss on Sunday night as the Ravens bounced back after an 0-2 start, winning 35-10. Derrick Henry was the story of the game as rushed for 199 yards and scored two TDs in the win.

On the contrary, there are two winless teams as it stands on Sunday night. The Tennessee Titans are 0-3, while the Jacksonville Jaguars stand at 0-4. The Jaguars come as somewhat of a surprise to be winless at this point in the season, but due to lackluster production from Trevor Lawrence at quarterback, the team remains at the bottom of the NFL through four weeks.

As the season progresses, the playoff picture will begin to take shape and the leaves will begin to fall. Autumn will turn to winter, and the weeks will become more meaningful in the NFL.



# Athlete of the Week

## Teá Amerise

Senior, 1st Singles & 1st Doubles, Women's Tennis



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

Amerise led the tennis team to a 5-2 victory over Immaculata University with Julia Spaeth for a 8-3 No. 1 doubles victory. She won in singles match 6-0, 4-6, and 11-9

**Major:** Math; **Minor:** Statistics  
**Hometown:** Mountain Top, PA

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

My favorite memory was probably from my freshman year when we played Misericordia in the semi-finals. It was a very exiting and competitive match, which we won, sending us to the finals against Stevens.

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

I like all the Pennsylvania teams, particularly the Eagles and the Phillies.

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

Away from sports, I like spending time taking care of and playing with my 4 cats and my dog. I also enjoy giving tennis lessons and tutoring Calculus or Trigonometry

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

I like being part of the team and getting to meet people who are in different majors that I wouldn't meet otherwise. Not many students major in Math, so playing a sport provides a way to meet a more diverse group of people

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

My favorite sports movies is "Space Jam."

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

I would probably play soccer

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

My absolute favorite sports memory was from high school. My doubles partner and I won our District Championship match and got to compete at the State Championships.

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

I don't really have a favorite post-game meal. I do, however, enjoy a sweet treat after a match like an Italian ice.

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

I am truly honored to be selected as the Athlete of the Week. I know all the athletes at Wilkes work really hard, so I consider it to be a privilege to be recognized. I am grateful to my coaches and teammates because I know my individual successes are a product of working with and alongside them.

The Beacon//Samantha Mullen

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



# Athlete of the Week

## Cole Jungwirth

Graduate Student, Men's Golf

**The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week**  
Jungwirth led the golf team to victory over Misericordia University after shooting a round-low 75, earning medalist honors at Huntsville Golf Club.

**Major:** Corporate Finance  
**Hometown:** Minneapolis, MN

**What had been your favorite sports memory from your time as a Colonel?**  
MAC Conference hockey championship game my freshman year in Utica

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

**What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?**  
Getting ice cream at Josie's


**What is your favorite part of being an athlete at Wilkes?**  
The campus support for all of our athletic teams

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

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

*Compiled by Samantha Mullen,  
Assistant Sports Editor*

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A portrait of Cole Jungwirth, a young man with short brown hair, smiling slightly. He is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt with "WILKES UNIVERSITY COLONELS HOCKEY" printed in yellow. He is standing in front of a light-colored brick wall.

The Beacon/Sam Mullen



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Sep 14th, all day

King's Invitational

Wilkes Barre, PA

Sep 15th, all day

King's Invitational

Wilkes Barre, PA

Sep 28th, all day

ITA Division III Men's Regional Championships

Fredericksburg, PA

Sep 29th, all day

ITA Division III Men's Regional Championships

Fredericksburg, PA

Oct 5th, 11 am

Rutgers-Camden

Ralston - Athletic Complex

Oct 5th, 3pm

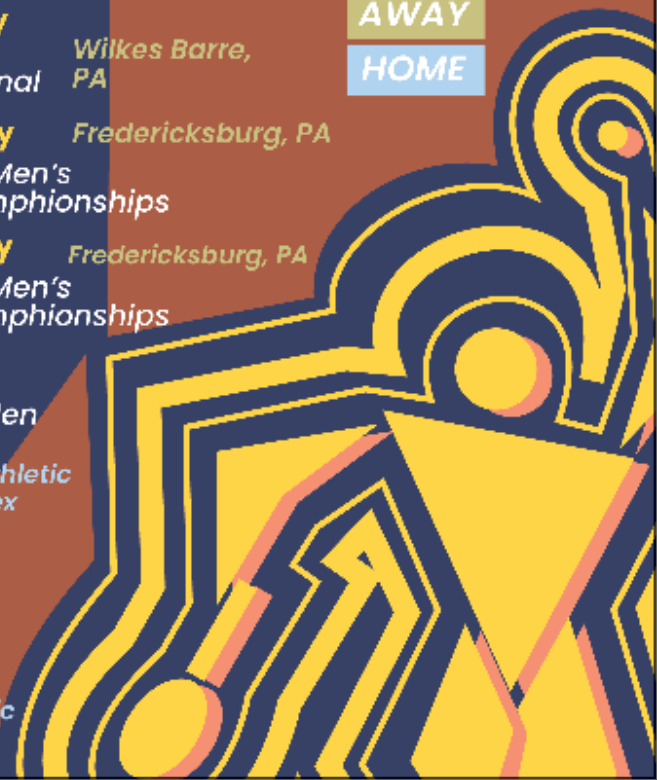
Elizabeth College

Ralston - Athletic Complex

TENNIS

AWAY

HOME



CROSS  
COUNTRY

Aug 30th, TBA

Misericordia Invitational

Dallas, PA

Sep 14th, TBA

Cougar Classic

Dallas, PA

Sep 28th, TBA

Lock Haven University

Lock Haven, PA

Oct 25th, TBA

Landmark Preview: Lebanon Valley College

Lebanon, PA

Nov 2nd, TBA

Landmark Conference Championships

Lebanon, PA

Nov 16th, TBA

NCAA Mid Atlantic Regional

Lock Haven, PA

ALL AWAY



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