



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

Full lunar eclipse "Blood Moon" visible in the U.S.



A full lunar eclipse, or "Blood Moon," was visible in every U.S. state Thursday night into Friday morning.

Photo by Shannon Slominski

By Sydney Allabaugh

Editor-in-Chief

Stargazers across the country observed a rare astronomical event Thursday night into Friday early morning: a full lunar eclipse "Blood Moon."

It was the first total lunar eclipse in more than two years.

According to NASA:

"A lunar eclipse occurs when the Sun, Earth, and Moon align so that the Moon passes into Earth's shadow. In a total lunar eclipse, the entire Moon falls within the darkest part of Earth's shadow, called the umbra. When the Moon is within the umbra, it appears red-orange. Lunar eclipses are sometimes called 'Blood Moons' because of this phenomenon."

The eclipse was visible in every U.S. state and other areas in the Western Hemisphere. It began at 11:57 p.m. on Thursday and ended Friday at 6 a.m. The total eclipse began at 2:26 a.m. and lasted a little over an hour.

According to the National Weather Service, lunar eclipses occur one to two times a year on average.

The next predicted lunar eclipse that will be visible in the U.S. will not occur until March 2026.



Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof visits Wilkes, page 3



Event to celebrate 250th birthday of Jane Austen, page 7



What is Tokusatsu, and why should you watch it?, page 17



WIH bows out of playoffs after narrow loss to Colby College, page 19

News

Have a breaking story or a press release to send? Contact the news editor Leah Smith at leah.smith1@wilkes.edu

Student Government notes: March 12 weekly meeting

By Kayla Bicskei
News Staff Writer

Student Government convened for its eighth weekly meeting of the Spring 2025 semester on March 12. The meeting addressed new Wilkes University policies, funding requests, and a club recognition request.

The Student Government Treasurer's report showed a current budget of \$27,613.

Dr. Mark Allen, one of the Student Government advisors, was the first to present at the meeting with university policy updates. The first policy update presented was the upcoming ban on electric scooters, bikes, and other non-car vehicles.

The ban will be implemented to reduce student injury and prevent fire hazard presence. The ban will go into effect on Aug. 1, 2025.

The second policy discussion Dr. Allen held during his presentation was a reminder for clubs to spend their money before the end of the Spring 2025 semester. As a result of the inability of clubs to carry their funds from one school year to the next, Dr. Allen aimed to ensure that clubs use the funds they have available before the end of the Spring 2025 semester.

The next presenting group was the We're Empowered by Science club for their week one of two funding request. The club is requesting funds to host their annual WEBS camp. The

annual WEBS camp is held in the summer and is attended by high school students who want to learn about science. The camp gains the majority of its funding from the campers' tuition, but the club is requesting funds from Student Government to ensure all interested students are able to attend through tuition or scholarship.

We're Empowered by Science club is requesting a total of \$3,000 to fully sponsor the tuition of 10 students' participation in the summer camp. The club will return next meeting for their week two of two funding request.

The Honors Program Student Committee was the next organization to present for their week one of two funding request. The Committee reported that their aim is to enhance the honors experience and engage with their peers in the Wilkes University community.

The committee is planning a trip to Skyzone, an indoor trampoline park, for honors students before the finals week. The event will include transporting 15 to 20 students to Skyzone with tickets funded by the committee. Any other honors students who sign up for the event will not receive free admission, but they will be given transportation to Skyzone.

The Honors Program Student Committee offered two options of funding amounts to Student Government. The first option is a request of \$360 to purchase 20 tickets to the

event. The second option is a request of \$260 to purchase 15 stickers to the event.

The Honors Program Student Committee will return next meeting for their week two of two funding request.

The Society of Women Engineers presented their week one of two funding request. The society is holding their Amazing Race event for high school students planning to attend college.

The Amazing Race event will be attended by six high school teams comprised of a total of 57 students. The participating students will compete in five events to win a \$1,000 scholarship. To help fund the event, the Society of Women Engineers is requesting a total of \$400 from the Student Government.

The Society of Women Engineers will return next meeting for their week two of two funding request.

To conclude the meeting, the AI along with Robotics Club presented their week one of two club recognition request.

The new club presented their aim to help students who are interested in robotics but find mechanical and electrical concepts complex. It was also presented that the club will begin attempting to host robotic soccer, robotic sumo, and robotic battle events.

The AI along with Robotics Club will return next meeting for their week two of two of their club recognition request.

Student Government will meet again on March 19.

Table of Contents

News.....2

Life, A&E.....7

Opinion.....14

Sports.....19

Upcoming Events: Spring 2025

- March**
- 20 - Movie Drive-In
 - 20 - Art in Context Lecture
 - 21 - Spring Fling
 - 24 - Late Night Lift
 - 29 - SG's Big Event 2025

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: leah.smith1@wilkes.edu

Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Andrew Marshall

Sordoni Art Gallery Apparel

The Sordoni Art Gallery is selling apparel that features student created designs. Apparel includes shirts, tote bags and more. The sale ends March 23. Orders will be ready about two weeks after the online store closes. To order, visit today.wilkes.edu for the link to the Sordoni online store.

Join the Honors Program

The Wilkes University Honors Program is

looking for current first year undergraduate students to join. First year students who have a 3.5 GPA or higher are eligible to apply. Applications close April 15. For more information, contact jennifer.mclaughlin1@wilkes.edu.

Social Media Ambassador Team

Wilkes University is looking for current students to join the social media ambassador team for the 2025-2026 school year. Members are able to showcase student life on campus. To apply, visit today.wilkes.edu to find the form. If you have questions, contact isabell.barberio@wilkes.edu

Late Night Lift - March 24

The Late Night Lift Committee is hosting late night lift on March 24 at the YMCA on Franklin Street. The first 150 students who attend will receive a free T-shirt and tote bag. All equipment will be provided by the YMCA. If you have any questions, contact kaitlin.beenders@wilkes.edu

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Nicholas Kristof visits Wilkes

Leah Smith
News Editor

Two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and New York Times bestselling author Nicholas Kristof visited Wilkes University on March 16 in part of the Rosenn Lecture Series.

Kristof has been working as a writer for the New York Times since 1984. He has won two Pulitzer prizes in journalism: one for his story about the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989 and one for his story on the genocide in Darfur in 2006.

Kristof returned to the United States after visiting Sudan. He recently published a story in the New York Times about how USAID cuts were affecting those in Sudan.

This topic was brought up in the morning Q&A session Kristof opened to Wilkes students, who were invited to join this session as well as a networking luncheon and Kristof's lecture in the afternoon.

Kristof discussed topics such as Sudan, Ukraine and approaches to journalism in the modern day. These topics brought many interesting stories that Kristof had, including various emotional encounters he has had with people he has met in countries he has reported in around the world.

At the beginning of the lecture, Kristof was introduced by Judge Max Rosenn's former law clerk Jonah Zimiles. As an honor to the late Rosenn as well as the series, Zimiles wanted to dedicate the afternoon's

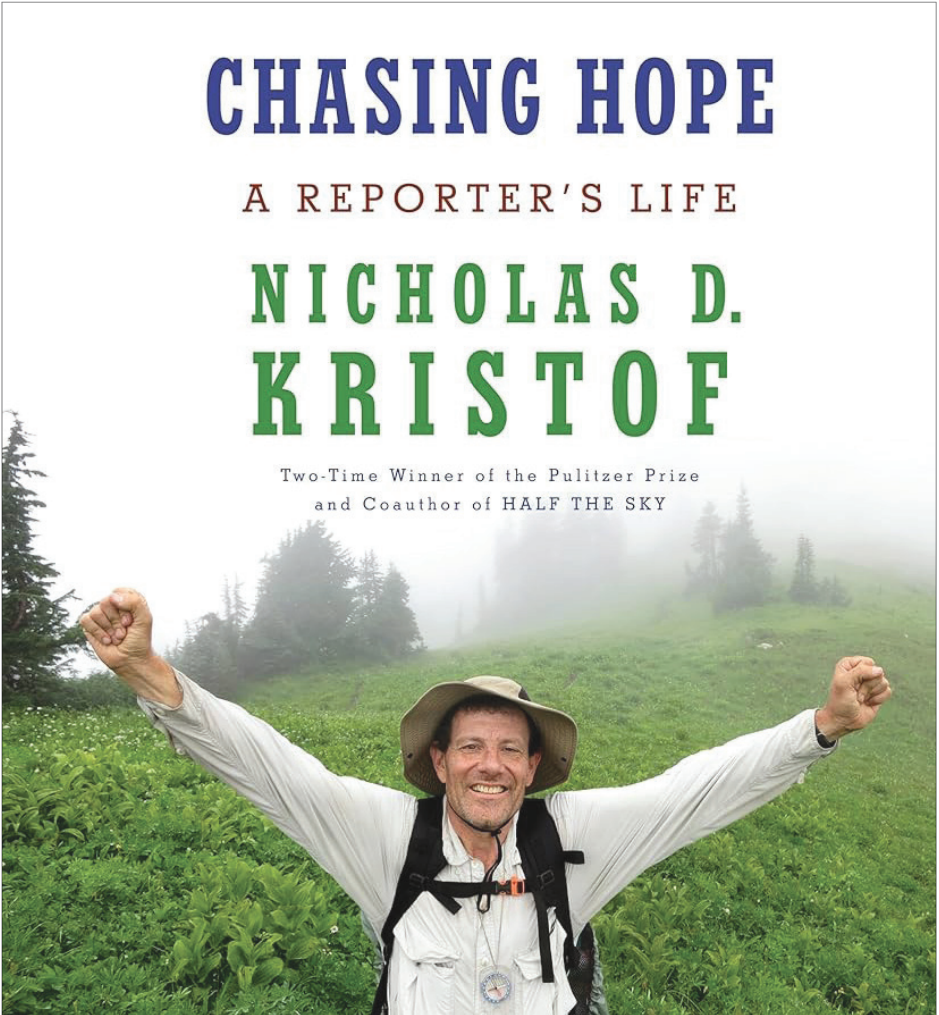
lecture to Rosenn and what he stood for: humanity and justice.

During his lecture, Kristof talked about similar issues discussed in his Q&A but also took a deep dive into his career as a journalist and how becoming a journalist and actively writing in places where war is occurring and conflict is at its peak has humbled him as both an American citizen as well as a reporter.

"What I've learned in my career and traveling around the world, is that I'm more than often wrong," Kristof said.

After the lecture, guests were welcome to purchase his latest book, "Chasing Hope: A Reporter's Life" and attend a book signing.

Watch the lecture online:



Nicholas Kristof lecturing at the Darte Center. Photo by Leah Smith

The cover of Kristof's book "Chasing Hope: A Reporter's Life."

Wilkes University names new members to the Board of Trustees

Susan Davis, Heather McCray, Joanne Schoonover, J. Bruce Weinstock

By Leah Smith
News Editor

On Feb. 21, Wilkes University introduced their newest members of the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees observes the school's operations, such as the quality of academic programs and monetary affairs.

These four new members are Susan Davis, Heather McCray, Joanne Schoonover and J. Bruce Weinstock.

Susan Davis graduated from Wilkes University in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in nursing and a master's degree in healthcare administration.

Davis is the senior vice president of asset management at Cascade Capital Group, a private healthcare management and healthcare real estate investment

company. She is also the primary asset liaison to the owners of SWV Management Company, the properties they own as well as others owned by Cascade.

She has been a mentor to nursing and business students at Wilkes since 2011. She also has taught a Personal and Professional Development 101 course. Davis joined the board of Trustees and currently serves the Marketing, Communications, Branding and Engagement Committee.

Heather McCray began her law career in Wilkes-Barre as a law clerk on the Third Circuit Court of Appeals for Judge Max Rosenn. She continued practicing law in New York City and retired from Davis Polk.

Since retiring, she has helped in

launching prominent and community-focused cultural and civic organizations such as the NYCIFE, the country's children's film festival, and started the university's Judge Max Rosenn Lecture series. McCray received her bachelor's from Cornell, a J.D. from the University of Michigan and her LL.M. at NYU.

Joanne Schoonover graduated from Wilkes in 1972 receiving a bachelor's degree in biology.

She became an educator and continued teaching for 15 years. She retired as the Vice President of Defense Acquisition University.

She has also served 26 years in the United States Air Force. She began as a flightline aircraft maintenance officer but went for the stars and began running major space programs such as Inertial

Upper Stage and the NAVSTAR Global Positioning Program. Schoonover has a master's in systems management from the University of Southern California and was a fellow at Harvard.

J. Bruce Weinstock graduated from Wilkes in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and finance. Weinstock works within the public education market and assists those in the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA) to find solutions to their retirement funds and savings.

Weinstock also is a representative of GWN Securities, Inc. an independent registered broker-dealer.

He is a Kingston, Pa. local and volunteers in his community and serves on several local boards of directors for nonprofits.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR...

NEWS WRITERS

Build your resume with writing experience.

Contact: emma.broda@wilkes.edu



Wilkes sees warmer temperatures ahead of spring season

Shannon Slominski
Photographer



Students wore T-shirts and some wore shorts last week amid warmer weather.



March 10 and March 11 saw highs of 67 and 73 degrees in Wilkes-Barre. The warm weather is expected to continue this week.



The Sun warms Wilkes University. Spring officially begins tomorrow, March 20.

Student Organization of Latinos holds Café con Leche event

Alejandra Marroqui shares her story

By Leah Smith

News Editor

Student Organization of Latinos (SOL) held its second Café con Leche this semester on Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Savitz Lounge.

At Café con Leche events, attendees are invited to engage with speakers, take part in activities, and connect with others over a cup of coffee.

At this Café con Leche, Alejandra Marroquin shared a personal narrative centered around childhood culture.

The next Café con Leche event will be on April 15. SOL is also collaborating with Crocheting Club on a fundraiser selling handmade crochet country flags.

For more information and updates, visit @wilkesu_sol.



Alejandra Marroquin shared a person narrative presentation at the Café con Leche event



Attendees enjoyed a cup of coffee and listened to Alejandra Marroquin's presentation.

Photos by Leah Smith

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact editor-in-chief Sydney Allabaugh at sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu

Event to celebrate 250th birthday of Jane Austen

By Natalia Williams

On March 27, the English Department is holding an event celebrating British novelist Jane Austen for her 250th birthday.

This event is also in celebration of Women's History Month. The event will include a panel of speakers and a dance demonstration led by Director of Dance Stefan Zubal and other members of the Wilkes University Dance Team.

"Jane Austin is an early 19th century British novelist whose work has been in constant circulation and popular publication since it was written and whose work has been adapted many many times into movies, plays, and other books," said Wilkes University English professor Dr. Helen H. Davis.

Known for her works like "Pride and Prejudice" and "Sense of Sensibility," Austen is considered an influential writer who has had an impact on how novels were written and how they are written today.

"She had a large influence on the novel, the form of the novel, and on techniques of novel writing. I also like her because she is very interested in the politics of domestic space and what it means to kind of live and function during that period, in domestic space as a woman."

Speaking on the panel will be Austen scholar Dr. Juliette Wells, who is the keynote speaker. Dr. Wells is a professor of Literary Studies at Goucher College.

Wells is also co-curating the exhibit "A Lively Mind: Jane Austen at 250" in New York City at the Morgan Library and Museum. Along with Dr. Wells, three Wilkes faculty members will also participate.

"We'll also include three Wilkes faculty. It is an interdisciplinary panel, I will speak, Dr. Amy Sopcak-Joseph from

history will speak and Mr. Stefan Zubal who is the Wilkes University dance director will speak," Davis said.

During the first hour of the event, the academic panel will discuss the legacy of Jane Austen. After the academic panel there will be a Regency - era dance demonstration by Zubal.

"Regency-era dance embodies elegance, social grace, and precisely choreographed interactions, serving as both an artistic expression and a reflection of societal norms," Zubal said. "Regency dance functioned as a social ritual, where subtle gestures, eye contact, and controlled physical interactions layered meaning within social expectations and relationships."

Since dance is a form of storytelling, it can bring history and literature to life.

"Incorporating historical and literary elements into dance enhances its structural and interpretive aspects, uniting choreography, period fidelity, and narrative coherence in a fluid artistic presentation," he said. "This thoughtful approach authentically brings a specific era or literary work to life."

"Weaving themes and stories from novels, poetry, or historical events into dance enriches the narrative, enabling performers to physically express the emotional depth, social complexities, and dramatic developments of their source material."

Following the academic panel and dance demonstration there will be a reception with refreshments. This event is free and open to the public. Registration is at register.wilkes.edu/austen250



Dr. Helen Davis



Sydney Allabaugh:
HOTBOX - Lil Nas X

Sam Mullen:
The Color Violet - Tory Lanez

Leah Smith:
Black Rainbow - Spiritbox

Brady Melovitz:
Psycho - Puddle of Mudd

Andrew Marshallsay:
Knockin' On Heaven's Door -
Bob Dylan

Shawn Carey:
Bleed Magic - I DONT KNOW
HOW BUT THE FOUND ME

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

PROGRAMMING BOARD EVENTS

SPRING
20
25

EVENTS EVERY
THURSDAY

1/30	Wing Wars	3/13	Sweet Treat Bingo
2/6	Scavenger Hunt	3/20	Movie Drive-In
2/13	Cupid's Carnival	3/27	Skateaway
2/20	Black History Month	4/3	Giveaway
	Bingo	4/10	Hobbies Bingo
2/27	Paws & Unwind	4/24	WUPB County Fair

Check out the new creative seating space outside the Sordoni Art Gallery



Have an event
you want
covered?

Let
The Beacon
know
WHEN
and
WHERE
and we'll do
our best to be
there!

Email
[sydney.allabaugh@
wilkes.edu](mailto:sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu)

Spring commencement speakers announced

By University release

Speakers for Wilkes' 78th annual spring commencement ceremonies, were announced recently.

Ceremonies will take place on May 17.

This year's keynote speakers include State Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski '67 and Dr. David Hicks, director of the nationally-ranked Maslow Family Graduate Program in Creative Writing at Wilkes University.

Pashinski has made remarkable contributions in fighting for quality education, affordable health care and commonsense tax reform in Pennsylvania.

Pashinski graduated from Wilkes University with a bachelor's degree in music education and has a master's equivalency. He will receive an honorary degree from Wilkes University at this year's commencement.

For 38 years, Pashinski taught music at the Greater Nanticoke Area

School District and held several union positions with the Greater Nanticoke Area Education Association, advancing to chief spokesperson, vice president and president.

Today, the majority chairman of the House Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, as well as a member of multiple caucuses, Pashinski is also a board member of the Pennsylvania Health Information Exchange and has introduced numerous bills to increase access to medical care, reduce costs to consumers and improve outcomes.

Pashinski is a local musician and entertainer and continues to be a leader in the community.

A first-generation college student and son of an immigrant parent, Hicks earned his bachelor's degree from Nazareth College of Rochester and his doctorate in American Literature at NYU. Prior to coming to Wilkes in 2020, he taught at Pace University in New York as well as Regis University in Denver, where he co-founded and co-directed the MFA program in

creative writing.

Through Hicks' leadership, enrollment for Wilkes University's graduate creative writing program has more than doubled in the last four years.

Hicks is the author of many short stories as well as a novel-in-stories, *White Plains*, a finalist for the Colorado Book Award and Westword Magazine's #1 book by Colorado authors. His recent children's book, *The Magic Ticket*, about the death of his sister when he was a boy, has been called "a beautiful exploration of the power of books to be company when we feel lonely, a salve when we are hurting" by Anythink Libraries.

His soon-to-be released second novel, *The Gospel According to Danny* (Vine Leaves Press, May 2025), has been called "deeply evocative" by Lori Ostlund, "dark, funny, [and] modern" by Robert Mooney, "a breakneck pursuit of the American dream" by Matt Bell, and "a dynamic portrait of . . . the fall of the American empire" by

Philip Brady.

"We are honored to welcome Wilkes alumnus, Representative Eddie Day Pashinski, and Dr. David Hicks as our commencement speakers this spring," said said Wilkes University President Greg Cant. "Because of their bold achievements and impact on the community and in the arts, they are an inspiration.

"Their words of encouragement and experiences will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression on our graduates as they embark on their next chapter and define success for themselves."

Wilkes University's spring 2025 commencement will celebrate the accomplishments of more than 800 graduates with bachelors, master's and doctoral degrees. It will be held at the McHale Athletic Center in the Ron and Rhea Simms Center on Main at 169 South Main Street, Wilkes-Barre.

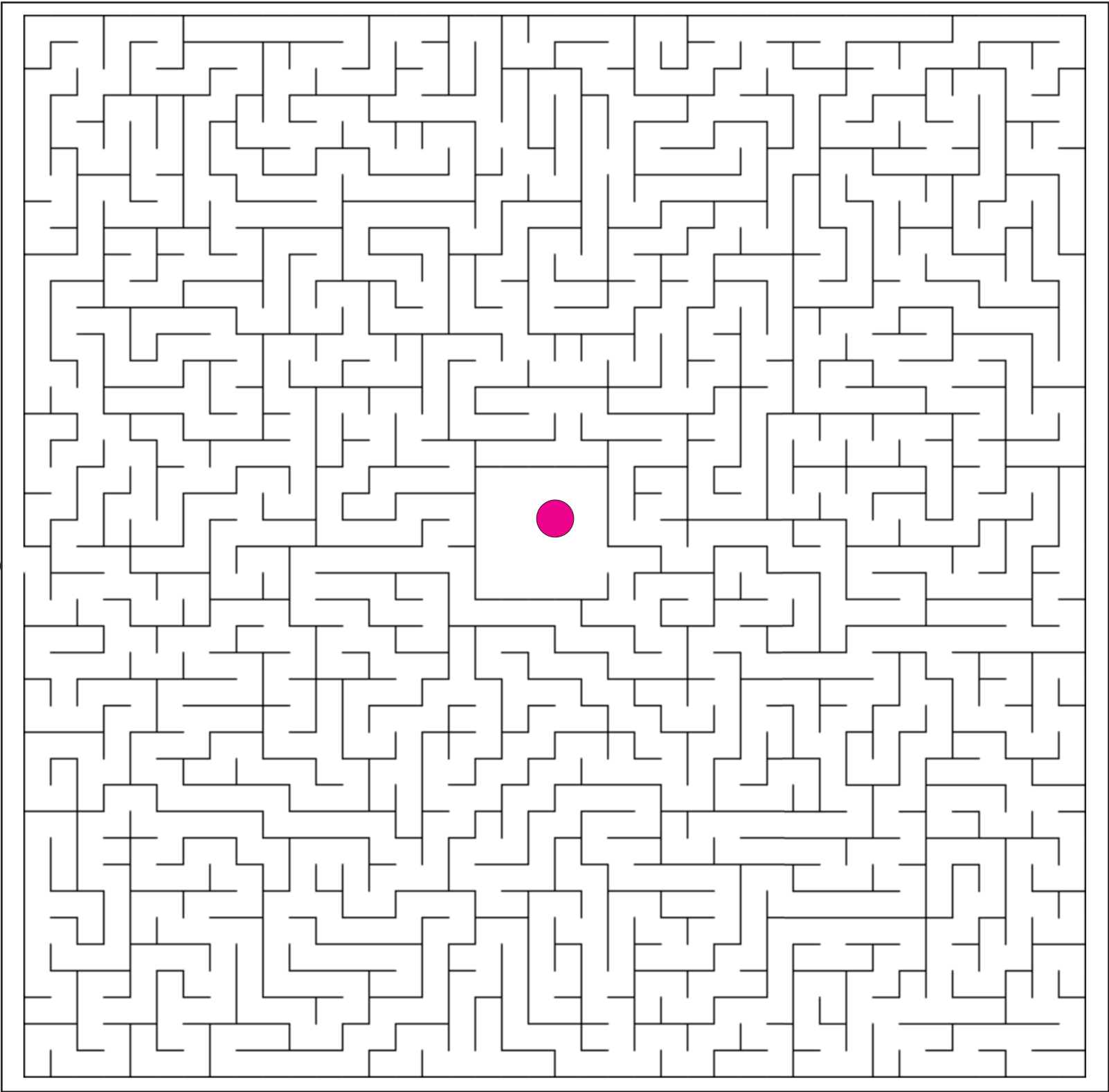
For more information on commencement, visit www.wilkes.edu/commencement.

**Is your club launching a fundraising event?
Looking for new members?**

**Let us know. You could be featured in an upcoming edition of The Beacon.
Email kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu with details and contact information.**

Which way out?

Find your way out of the maze



CAREER AND



INTERNSHIP FAIR

WILKES UNIVERSITY HOLDS

CAREER AND INTERNSHIP FAIR

Photos and Story By: Brady Melovitz

On March 13, Wilkes University held a career and internship fair in the McHale Athletic Center.

A multitude of different companies and organizations were in attendance, and it was designed for all majors. In total, there were 63 tables.

Plenty of students attended the fair. Sal Damico, a computer science major, spoke on why he came to the career fair.

"I came here because I want to find a job," Damico said. "Right now it's a very competitive job market and I feel like when an opportunity comes like this we need to take it."

Damico mentioned that the type of organization that he was looking for would be something in the sphere of game development.

Joe Long, another computer science major, cited a very similar reasons as Damico for showing up to the career fair. Long said that this career fair was a way for Wilkes students to be able to network with companies and establish connections with organizations that are in your interests.

Among the organizations in attendance was Hershey



Entertainment and Resorts. Jacklyn Mrakovich, recruiter for Hershey Entertainment and Resorts, mentioned what Hershey was looking for.

"There will be internships that are open in the summer for students to apply to," Mrakovich said.

Mrakovich also mentioned how Wilkes has been one



of their top college partners, so when they had the opportunity to be at the career fair, they took it up.

Another organization at the career fair was the Federal Bureau of Prison. Gregory Easton, who works with the organization, said they were specifically looking for people interested in being correctional officers.

The representatives for Merakey, a developmental, behavioral health, and education non-profit, said they were specifically looking for education and psychology majors for any jobs or internships they have.

A representative from Rutkoski Fencing Inc. said they were looking for engineering majors for their company.

"One thing that I can tell you about us is that we take pride in the quality of our work," said Trisha Pegula of Rutkoski Fencing Inc. "Really, though, our number one priority is safety."

Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact assistant opinion editors: shawn.carey1@wilkes.edu or logan.colonna@wilkes.edu.

Editorial Staff 2024-25

MANAGERIAL STAFF

Editor-in-Chief - Sydney Allabaugh
Social Media Manager - Megan Davis
Adviser - Dr. Kalen Churcher

SECTION EDITORS

News - Leah Smith
Sports - Zach Paraway

ASSISTANT EDITORS

News - Andrew Marshallsay
Opinion - Logan Colonna
Opinion - Shawn Carey
Sports - Adam Grundt
Sports - Sam Mullen

DESIGNERS

Head Designer - Lara Mullen
Designer - Carol Stratford
Layout Designer - Brady Melovitz
Photographer - Shannon Slominski

SECTION STAFF WRITERS

News - Kayla Bicskei
LA&E - Natalia Williams
Opinion - "Freeze"
Sports - Ava Tureen
Sports - Lexi McHugh

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

Want to advertise in *The Beacon*?
Contact: Kalen Churcher at
kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu or
Sydney Allabaugh at sydney.
allabaugh@wilkes.edu.



The Beacon
Est. 1936
Pa. Newspaper
Association Member

Our Voice

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

There is no such thing as an "illegal protest"

"Unconstitutional" is one of many words thrown around when discussing Donald Trump's presidency so far.

From proposing bills and laws attacking immigrants, people on social security, and just about everyone else in the country that aren't in his tight circle of billionaire partners, Trump has recently placed his next target on public education and college students.

Trump made a statement on Truth Social about how he will revoke federal funding for schools that allow, as he calls them, "illegal protests."

He added that any agitators will be arrested and/or deported as well as permanently expelled from the institution they are attending.

This post is a reference to the protests from 2024 where college students openly protested against the war between Israel and Palestine.

These protests were in advocacy for Palestine, in which students demanded for not only a ceasefire but for the U.S. to acknowledge and end the unjust killing of Palestinian people. Protests for this are continuing today.

Trump's rhetoric against college student protests may be actualizing.

Columbia University graduate Mahmoud Khalil, a legal permanent U.S. resident, helped lead protests for Palestine last spring at the university. He was detained and is facing potential deportation under the provision that allows green card holders to be removed from the country if they present "potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States."

Trump spoke on this on Truth Social and stated, "This is the first of many to come." He added that he and his organization will go after more students across the country and called these protests for Palestine "anti-semitic, anti-American and pro-terrorist."

This is horrifying not only to college students who have been involved in various protests but for all American citizens. This is only a single instance, but what is to stop him from going after people who are protesting against other social/political issues that the Trump administration is attempting to dismantle and hide from the American people?

His brashness toward immigrants is more than just people crossing borders. From Khalil's story and surely more to come, it does not matter to him if people are born in the U.S. or have obtained a green card. Trump is focused on silencing people who

disagree with him.

Protests and fighting for a better future are the basis of America. Calling protests, no matter what the cause, "pro-terrorist" is not only untrue but proves what we should have known from the beginning. Trump and his administration want the American people to be uneducated in what is happening to us and around the world and complacent in the face of injustice.

Freedom of expression is a First Amendment right for all Americans. This includes protesting and freedom of speech.

Protesting is a freedom that all Americans, especially college students and the next generation should be able to exercise.

"Children are the future."

This statement rings true as we are marching the streets fighting for rights that our parents and grandparents have fought for. Not only are we fighting for rights and freedoms that have been fought for in the past but for new ones as well.

Protesting will never go away.

If that means more will have to be detained to fight for what's right then, so be it. At least we will be on the right side of history exercising our rights as real Americans.

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: Presenting horror game “Lethal Company”

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

I have never been a fan of horror games. This is mostly because I find them to be fundamentally boring. Even if they are scary, they do not end up being fun to play in an objective sense. Fortunately, that is something which “Lethal Company” accounts for.

First of all, this game is terrifying. It's that simple. The first time I played the game with my friends was at one in the morning in my cold, dark bedroom. I had my surround sound headset on and nobody in my party had played the game before so we were all in the same boat and had to figure things out as we went.

You and three other crew members work together to land a ship on different moons and explore abandoned facilities for important equipment and treasures. Every three days, the Company provides you a quota of credits that you need to meet by any means necessary, which would be selling any items that you find to the Company headquarters. The problem is, if you don't meet the quota in

time, you get eaten.

Now, it gets even worse than that. The moons you land on have unknown creatures and weather patterns that can kill you and your crewmates in many ways. Some lurk out in the open, forcing you to rush your way indoors and budgeting your stamina. Most of the monsters, however, can be found creeping around in the abandoned facilities. They might guard a hallway, pursue anyone who enters their territory or initiate a hunt to get at you and your friends. They can attack you from any direction, including above, below and all directions at the same time. Regardless, all of them are scary and difficult to beat, especially in the early-game with less equipment.

Speaking of equipment, you and your crew get paid based on your performance and can spend that money on deliveries for flashlights, shovels, radios and more. Any electronic equipment has a battery that depletes relatively quickly and can be charged an unlimited number of times on the spaceship. Shovels are used to fight monsters but honestly are not very useful

unless you practice using them a lot. In early stages, your best bet is to rely on flashlights and perform a rush operation for loot.

The character mechanics in this game are what make it significantly more interesting. The one feature that carries this game far beyond others is the voice chat. There is an in-game proximity voice chat that works as if you were actually in space with your friends. All of the mics distort your voice to sound like you are speaking on a radio that has limited range. In other words, if you separate you can't hear each other. That's also why the walkie-talkie radios are important. If a crewmate dies, they go silent but you are never notified when or if they perish.

Allow me to paint a picture for you. You are on a crew of four people, the other three being your best friends in real life. One person volunteers to stay on the spaceship so they can monitor life forms and send intelligence to the crew. Another person holds the walkie-talkie used to communicate.

For a while it seems to be going well. Your intelligence member is making sure

you beeline to treasure and carefully navigate around monsters. However, as it starts getting late, your crew realizes they absolutely need more treasure to meet the quota and have to make at least another round trip in the dark night. You decide to stay behind during the second round, holding the radio.

Only seconds later, you don't receive confirmation from the other radio holder. Their body appears to be stationary on the monitor. The other two crew members have entered the caves without guidance. You decide to go after them just in case.

While you do manage to catch up, you only come upon one of your friends who has nothing but a shovel and some scraps. You decide to lead them back to the spaceship, but they go silent. Now it's just you, all alone and several dozen meters in the depths of the dark cave.

You know that if you don't bring back the found treasures that your entire crew will fail to meet the quota and you will lose the game. They can hear each other up in heaven. They are probably laughing or joking around, but you are terrified.

Dropkick Murphys concert review: An outsider's perspective

By Natalia Williams

Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff Writer

This Wednesday, I attended a Dropkick Murphys concert, and as a mainly pop girl, I surprisingly had an amazing time.

When my roommate asked if I wanted to go, I was reluctant but decided to go anyway for the experience. I knew absolutely nothing about the band aside from one song “I'm Shipping Up to Boston.” Before I went I decided to research a bit to find out about the band, and I learned that Dropkick Murphys are an American-Celtic punk rock band who were big in the early 2000s.

Since they are a punk rock band and I'm not very familiar with that genre, aside from hits from bands like Green Day, I was nervous that I wasn't going to enjoy the show, but I was proven wrong from the second I walked into the arena. Even before the show started, I felt an

energy that I have never felt before in the concerts I've been to. It's pretty indescribable but the energy was getting me excited.

At the show there were two openers, Teenage Bottlerocket and The Menzingers.

The first band that performed was Teenage Bottlerocket. I really enjoyed their set. The energy was amazing and they had some pretty good songs.

However, my favorite out of the two was definitely The Menzingers. Their music had an early 2000s vibe to it and since that's my preferred era of music, I really enjoyed it and it made me want to listen to more of their discography. One thing that was really cool that I was so happy to experience was the circle mosh pits. I've always seen them on social media and seeing them in person was so cool. I wanted to be a part of it even though I'd 100% get hurt.

Overall, I'd give the openers an 8/10. They really got the energy of the crowd up and excited for the main act to come out. I enjoyed their music and it made me want to listen to the two groups and the genre as a whole a bit more.

Now for Dropkick Murphys: 100% a 10/10. Even though I only knew one song, I was standing up and dancing the entire time. Their energy is incredible and they were very entertaining.

They opened up with “The Boys Are Back” and it was the perfect opener. It got me extremely excited to hear more and I really enjoyed the way they blended the classic punk rock sound and celtic music together.

Some songs I enjoyed were “Rose Tattoo,” “Captain Kelly's Kitchen” and “The State of Massachusetts.”

One thing I did notice which I've never seen before were people sitting down the entire show. Granted, we were in the

nosebleeds, so maybe people thought there wasn't a point in standing. However, every concert I've been to, even if we are in the nosebleeds, people are standing. I thought it was pretty interesting and it made me wonder if it was normal to sit at a punk rock concert if you aren't on the floor.

Overall I'd give the show from start to finish a 10/10. There was a vibe and energy I've never experienced, the music was quite enjoyable, and I had a ton of fun just vibing and dancing with my friends. I would put this show in my top 10 list of concerts just because of how different of an experience it was. It made me want to listen to the groups and the genre further and possibly go to more punk rock concerts.

I also learned a valuable lesson about expanding my horizons and experiencing different shows whether I know the songs or not.

How insulin price manipulation impacts students and universities

Profiting at the expense of others

By Yahn Olson

Environmental Litigation Group, P.C.

With the exorbitant cost of insulin practiced in the U.S. in the past decade, more and more private health insurers cannot offer this medication to their clients without charging premium prices for healthcare plans. Private and public universities that provide health insurance to students and staff now find themselves trapped in a never-ending cost increase, being forced to raise insurance prices and risk losing competitiveness and students over a life-saving medication that should be affordable to all who need it. At the same time, insulin manufacturers and special groups that can buy insulin at confidential prices report profits in the billions at the expense of people's health and taxpayer money.

The American Insulin Crisis: A System Built on Debt and Rationing

In America, insulin can cost a diabetic person almost half of their income, while four out of five people with diabetes have to go into debt to afford this life-saving medication. Those who cannot manage these costs resort to rationing, meaning that they use far less than the recommended dose to keep their diabetes under control. Estimates indicate that across all patients with type 1 and type 2 diabetes living in the U.S., rationing occurs in about 25% of cases. All these patients are at a significant risk of developing complications due to uncontrolled diabetes.

The exorbitant price of insulin in America also drove health insurance costs on the verge of unaffordability for many, while at the same time, private and public insurers, even with premium price practices for diabetics, can no longer support covering these costs. As universities offer students automatic or optional healthcare plans, these educational institutions were among the insurers affected. This phenomenon impacted most self-funded universities, as these universities are no longer able to afford the healthcare costs of their staff

and students with diabetes.

Oregon, like other states, passed legislation to cap insulin prices at \$35. Yet, this further strains insurers and patients as costs for healthcare plans were increased to compensate for the caps. Now, with the implementation of insulin caps, universities are forced to charge students with diabetes even more for health insurance. Those on private plans are at risk of rationing and subsequent diabetes complications that may cause them to withdraw from higher education, resulting in an indirect impact on university funding.

In the meantime, within just 10 years, insulin manufacturers increased their prices by 1000%, with gross sales having more than doubled from 2012 to 2019, from \$13 billion to \$27 billion. However, after accounting for confidential discounts granted to Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and some insurers, net sales dropped from \$8 billion to \$5 billion within the same time frame. These differences between gross and net sales amount to an 80% price drop as a result of these preferential discounts. This translates to an unfair yet confidential discount practice through which some purchase insulin at hidden discounted costs. At the same time, manufacturers continuously increased the price of insulin to continue making a profit. All this was done at the expense of those outside their network, including patients whose lives depend on insulin.

Impact of Insulin Price Manipulation on University Healthcare

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) prohibits health insurers from discriminating against clients based on their medical conditions. In practice, for universities, this means that students with diabetes cannot be denied insulin coverage under their healthcare plans. As a result, universities have two options: either offset the costs through higher insurance premiums or regulate insulin access by increasing out-of-pocket expenses. However, the second option is no longer viable in states implementing

insulin price caps. Consequently, raising health insurance premiums has become a common practice among private and public universities.

However, as insulin prices continue to rise, university health insurance plans cannot increase indefinitely, as these costs have already surpassed affordability for many students. In response, universities may adopt unorthodox cost-cutting measures, such as limiting covered services, excluding certain insulin brands, reducing coverage for diabetes-related medical supplies, or increasing deductibles. These strategies allow universities to comply with ACA regulations on paper while subtly shifting the financial burden onto students with diabetes.

Nevertheless, regardless of how unfair these practices may seem, universities, as well as other health insurers and patients, struggle to sustain these costs. Moreover, while intended to reduce expenses, these cost-cutting measures often cost universities and students more in the long run. Without proper diabetes management, many students may experience serious health complications, leading some to withdraw from their studies. This reduces university revenue from tuition and has long-term consequences for students, including chronic health issues and reduced earning potential in adulthood.

Holding Insulin Manufacturers and PBMs Accountable

Eli Lilly and Company, Novo Nordisk Inc., and Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC, along with PBMs CVS Caremark, Express Scripts, OptumRx, and corporate affiliates, stand now as defendants in multidistrict litigation (MDL No. 3080). Plaintiffs in this MDL are diverse and include patients and various health insurers, including self-funded universities that suffered the most losses due to insulin costs.

The defendants are accused of artificially inflating insulin prices through a complex scheme involving secret rebate agreements between

manufacturers and PBMs. These deals allegedly prioritized profits over affordability, leading to skyrocketing list prices while PBMs secured kickbacks. Plaintiffs argue that this manipulation forced insurers, including self-funded universities, to shoulder excessive costs, ultimately passing the financial burden onto students and employees. Additionally, the litigation claims this market entrapment stifled competition, blocking access to lower-cost alternatives like biosimilars and generic insulin.

Considering the evolution of the price of insulin in America, these accusations seem sufficiently substantiated. Additionally, other strategic decisions on the insulin market further reinforce this scenario. However, critics argue that large manufacturers are now stumbling to keep their place on the market as state legislation for partnerships with other companies manufacturing and selling insulin at a fraction of the cost can become a reality.

On a parallel line, it must be recognized that the insulin price manipulation scheme was possible because of the absence of federal legislation that would prohibit manufacturers of life-saving drugs from charging unrealistic prices for patients who quite literally need this medication for survival. The current MDL should thus catalyze the development of state and federal regulations that would limit the ability of pharmaceutical companies and PBMs to engage in price-gouging practices, ensuring that essential medications remain accessible and affordable.

About the Author

Yahn Olson is a legal professional at Environmental Litigation Group, P.C., concentrating on corporate misconduct cases. He is committed to advocating for individuals and organizations affected by unethical corporate practices and strives to hold companies accountable for their actions.

What is Tokusatsu, and why should you watch it?

By Shawn Carey
Asst. Opinion Editor

If there's one thing that you have to know about me, it's that I have many, many interests. I am unable to enjoy a single franchise or form of media. I have to know everything about everything.

Over the summer I watched the movie "Ultraman: Rising." At the time, the movie was the newest addition to the "Ultraman" franchise. A series that I knew fairly little about. The extent of my knowledge came from the original 1966 show, something that I used to watch quite often.

To be honest, I wasn't expecting much going into the movie. I was expecting to see some cool giant monster battles and to feel nostalgic. A solid 5/10 experience.

With that being said, picture my reaction when I found myself tearing up during the final action scene. It surpassed all of my expectations. The movie is filled to the brim with heart and character. I absolutely loved it.

About a day or so after finishing the movie, I decided to do some research on the series. What I thought was going to be fun and simple investigation turned out to be quite the rabbit hole. A rabbit hole that would quickly become a new hyperfixation.

"Tokusatsu" is a Japanese term which translates to "special effects drama." Tokusatsu as we know it today started in 1954 with the release of the very first "Godzilla" movie.

Inspired by "King Kong," the film's special effects supervisor, Eiji Tsuburaya formulated many of the techniques that would become staples of the genre. Such as the use of miniatures and "suitmation."

The genre spent its early days pretty exclusively tied to the kaiju subgenre. Characters such as the aforementioned Godzilla lead the market for a few years. That was until in 1957 when Shinto produced the first film serial featuring the superhero character "Super Giant."

The film was a huge success and caused the genre to shift to more superhero oriented stories. The next few years saw the creation of the three biggest tokusatsu franchises: "Kamen Rider," "Super Sentai," and the previously mentioned "Ultraman."

I have fallen in love with all three franchises and their many shows. With that being said, tokusatsu is a rather niche genre outside of its native language. Godzilla is really the only franchise that has any sort of popularity outside of Japan. Which brings me my reason for writing this article.

I'm going to explain why I like the genre so much and why I believe you should give it a shot.

First thing first, these are superhero shows. They're all about fighting against the forces of evil and saving people. They're rather unique with how they approach the concept, however.

They're known as "Henshin Heroes." A Henshin Hero has distinct normal and powered up forms. They need to actively switch between the two via transformation devices.

Unlike western superheroes, Henshin Heroes are powerless outside of their superhero transformation.

This helps build a sense of drama when they're walking around in their powerless civilization identities as well as create excitement whenever we see them transform.

The three major series have their own unique transformations and tropes. For example, "Ultraman" features characters bonding with aliens to turn into giant silver humanoids. A power that they use to battle kaiju of earthly and extraterrestrial origins.

Meanwhile, "Kamen Rider" has its characters transforming using belts. Every rider belt is unique and different, meaning that you'll constantly see a different style of transformation.

I find the transformation gimmicks to be incredibly interesting. I love seeing different variations of the same concept and just how different a simple idea can get. Which leads me to my next talking point, creativity.

The big three "toku" shows operate in a similar fashion as "Doctor Who." Each season stars a new cast of characters. However, it goes a bit further than just a new cast. Each season also has a different theme.

For example, the current season of "Kamen Rider" is based around sweets. The season that came before was all alchemy. Before that it was a battle royale. Before that it was about hunting demons. So on.

These shows have been on air for a half century. All three shows have 30+ seasons. With so many seasons and different ideas, I believe everyone can find at least one that interests them.

Speaking from my own experience, I started with "Kamen Rider Saber." A season based around fairy tales and other classic literary stories. Something I have an interest in.

Now, as creative as the shows are, they do have their own set of tropes. Most episodes tend to follow the "monster of the week" format. Every episode has a villain who is expeditiously defeated at the end, never to be dealt with again.

I've personally never really been a fan of this format. I never really had an interest in random monster battles. With that being said these shows manage to make it entertaining. The monster designs are so creative and weird. They're really unlike anything I've seen before. They also tend to have a bit of a retro sci-fi flair to them if you're a fan of that.

As expected the action is also great.

Everything is so big, flashy, and in your face. There's martial arts, explosions, robots and pretty much everything that you thought was awesome when you were a child.

It's also just extremely impressive. Ninety percent of action scenes are created exclusively with practical effects. The monsters are actors in rubber costumes; the explosions are created with pyrotechnics; there's stunt actors doing backflips in big chunky outfits, etc.

Last but not least, I want to talk about the stories the franchise tells. Monsters and superheroes are cool, but none of that matters if the story isn't good.

It may be a bit cheesy sometimes, and sometimes, even too over the top but Tokusatsu is full of heart. "Ultraman" is all about not relying on an external force and trusting in yourself. "Kamen Rider" questions the true meaning of justice. "Super Sentai" is about unity and coming together to stop a bigger threat.

Each season offers the viewer something new. I promise, you'll get as hooked as I am.

Graphic by Carol Stratford



A review of "KAYTRAMINÉ," a collaboration album

An analysis of performance, features, production, replayability

By Logan Colonna

Asst. Opinion Editor

With the warmer weather upon us, I like to get more in the mood by listening to songs and albums that embody the summer vibe. One of my favorite cases of this is Aminé's and KAYTRANADA's collaboration record, "KAYTRAMINÉ."

It was released back in May 2023, just in time for the summer. When it was first announced, I was beyond excited for it since I was quite the Aminé fan back when it was released with his projects like "Limbo" and "TWOPOINTFIVE." With that being said, I adore this album, especially during the warmer months with the different aspects of the production, Aminé's performance and the various features throughout the tracklist.

First as always, Aminé did great here vocally. Some stand out tracks for him are "4EVA," "Master P" and "EYE."

As for "4EVA," it was the lead single for the project, getting me even more excited than I was beforehand. The kind of vibe that Aminé introduces here is unmatched in the "chill" department. I remember when I first heard this track, I was on a University Towers balcony on a hot, sunny day, relaxing on a hammock while listening to this track. That entire scenario is embodied into this track. The way that Aminé pairs so well with the feature of the track, Pharrell, makes his performance even better.

Next, "Master P" might be my favorite song off of this record with the combination of the incredible production and Aminé's go-getter attitude all throughout his verses. Aminé practically skates along the production with his rhymes and incredible flow. Speaking of his flow, he switches it up quite a bit throughout the entire track, making for an interesting vocal performance during the whole song.

Then, we have "EYE." Aminé gets more melodic with his performance here, and I am the biggest fan of it. His voice throughout the chorus is honestly

perfect. He then deepens his voice a little for his verses as a way to contrast his verses and the chorus, and I think the execution is fascinating. Overall, even besides the few standouts, Aminé did wonderfully with his vocals on this record. I don't think anyone else besides Aminé would be able to create a record

A feature that I didn't enjoy all that much when I revisited it was Amaarae's verse off of "Sossaup." She used this high-pitched voice for her entire verse and just was not a fan. It's different, sure. But being different isn't a great thing sometimes. However, the other features take away from the single "meh" feature

can be great. When being used by Aminé to rap over, it just sounds great.

Next, "Master P" used a sample that was created by taking vocals from a track that was on a soundtrack for a movie titled "Sadma." The sample itself loops vocals of the artist chanting "Yah, yah, yah" as well as reversing the instrumental from the sampled track. Any kind of sample is the way to my heart, so being able to see the sample be created through the research I did was fascinating to say the least. To add on, the sample just sounds amazing. It may not be everyone's cup of tea, but for someone who loves experimental hip hop as much as I do, you're bound to love this track.

Lastly, yet again, we have "EYE." I have one word as to why this instrumental is as good as it is. Triangle. The way the triangle is used at the end of each bar in order to fill up the void between each rapping point is genius. On top of that, the rest of the instrumental is great as well. It goes incredibly well with both Aminé's chorus and verse as well as Snoop Dogg's verse. It's like a nice little bow on the present that is the two artists' performances. Besides these tracks, there are a handful of other songs that are just as good production-wise.

Finally, this album is very replayable to say the least. The tracklist is 11 songs while the runtime is a short 33 minutes. This alone makes for a replayable album since the album is fairly short from start to finish. To add onto this, each song has its own distinctive soundscape. While all of the songs are just enough of the same to all be in the same album, they have minor things that set them apart from each other in order to create a cohesive and enjoyable listening experience.

With everything being stated, I really enjoy this album. There's close to nothing that I dislike about this record. Besides the one feature that I talked about, everything is great at the very least.

Because of that, "KAYTRAMINÉ" is a 9 out of 10 for me.



like this and have it sound just as good.

Now, we have the features that pair up with Aminé on each track. My favorite feature is between Freddie Gibbs off of "letstalkaboutit" or Snoop Dogg off of "EYE." You can never go wrong with a feature from Freddie, but I was also surprised by Snoop's verse since I honestly thought that he would be "washed" at this point in his career. To my surprise though, he absolutely delivered. Big Sean also did great on "Master P," but I think he was overshadowed by Aminé's best performance on the album a little too much for me to truly enjoy it all that much.

so I cannot complain at all.

Next up, we have the production. As I stated before, this record is a collaboration between Aminé and KAYTRANADA, the Grammy Award-winning producer. Before this record, I haven't listened to many of the songs he has produced, but since this record, I've enjoyed just about everything he put out. My favorite tracks production-wise are "letstalkaboutit," "Master P" and "EYE" (a lot of variety, I know).

"letstalkaboutit" offers a simple but effective instrumental. All it uses are the typical sounds you'd hear in rap songs nowadays. Sometimes though, simple

Sports

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

WIH bows out of playoffs after narrow loss to Colby College

By Andrew Marshallsay
Asst. News Editor

The Wilkes women's hockey team was on the road to begin the NCAA DIII national tournament on March 15. In the first national tournament in the program's history, they took on a team that made it to the tournament as an at-large pick in Colby College.

It was the first time in either team's history that the two met. Wilkes made it to the NCAA tournament after being victorious against Arcadia University in the Middle Atlantic Conference final. Colby made it to the tournament as one of the at-large picks after falling in the NESCAC final against Middlebury University.

Coming into the game, the Colonels had a 22-4-1 record with an 18-2-1 slate in conference play. The Mules of Colby College came into the first round of the tournament with an overall record of 17-6-2.

Shortly after the puck was dropped to open the game, Colby found the lead just over a minute in. Mandy Busky scored the opening goal with Jo Tattersall and Anna Stanton assisting.

The Colonels answered back with less than 10 minutes to go in the first period with Megan Bell grabbing a game tying tally off of an assist from Savanna Maxon.

The Mules scored once more in the final few minutes of the first period when Breanna Studley found the back of the net off an assist from Abby Wick. The Colonels went into the first intermission trailing by a score of 2-1.

The Mules scored two goals in the first five minutes of the second period to make it a 4-1 game. The first goal was scored by Megan Martodam, with Molly Lefebvre and Tattersall grabbing the assists. Lefebvre scored the second of the period, giving her two total points on the night.

The Colonels came out of the second intermission and found the back of the net almost immediately. They made it a 4-2 game when Haylee Bouchard lit the lamp with Gianna Pacilio assisting. Another goal for the Colonels came on the power play when Nina Hudakova found the net. Jordan Ferry and Bouchard had the assists. The Colonels made it a 4-3 game, and were unable to complete the late third period comeback.

With the loss in the first round of the NCAA tournament, the Wilkes women's

hockey team finishes their best season in team history, and one of the most historic seasons in Wilkes Athletics history.

Their conference championship was the first for Wilkes in almost a decade. They also finished with the best record in team history, going 22-5-1 overall. The team finished the season at No.11 on the USCHO rankings

The top scorer for the team was Haylee Bouchard, who finished the season with 20 goals and 12 assists, giving her 32 points in 28 games played. The top assister was Renee Ng, who also took home the MAC rookie of the year award.

Receiving the most penalty minutes over the course of the season was Bouchard and Ng, each with 18 PM.

Bouchard also was named to the All-MAC first team. Ng, Ferry and Tilly Wierdsma were named to the All-MAC second team.

Receiving honorable mentions was goaltender Audrey Milne. For Milne, she finished her sophomore season with a record

of 19-5-1, with a GAA of just 1.41 and a SV% of .927.

For Head Coach Dave LaBaff his third year at the helm of the program was his best yet. In the now three seasons as head coach, the Colonels have gone 44-31-5 in those three seasons.

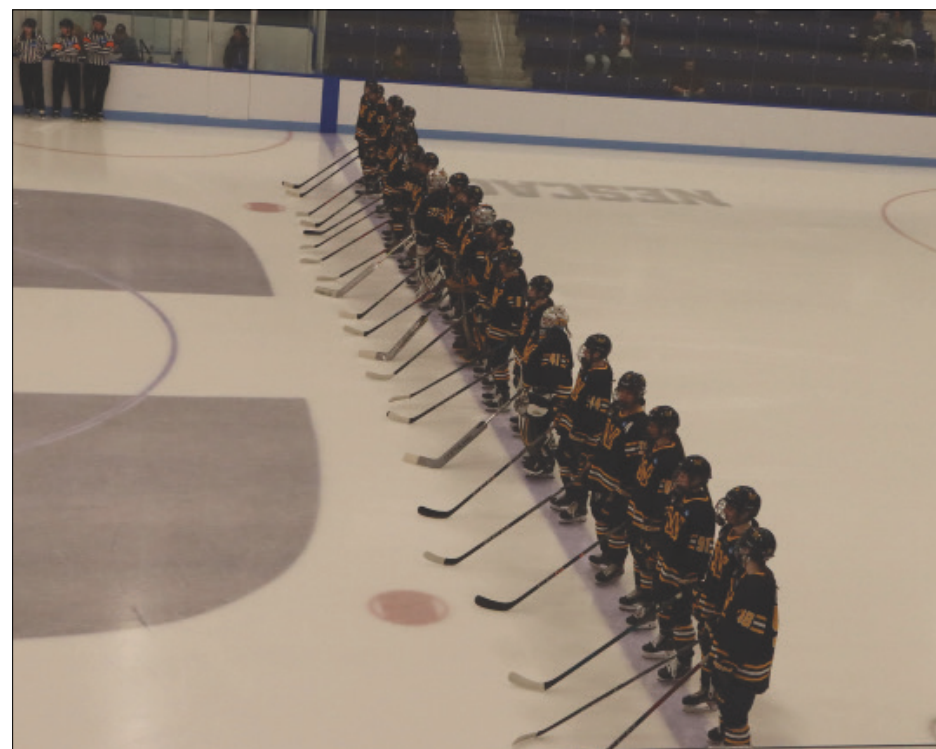
The team graduates six players this year with two seniors and four graduate students. The two seniors are Ainsley Wescott and Emma Swansburg, with Maxon, Rachel Morey, Addy Olsen and Iida Laitinen being the graduate students.

The Colonels had contributions from all of their players, from their first years all the way to their graduate students. With a team that is set to be competitive for years to come, the Colonels set their sights on the MAC title in 2026 and beyond.

For more information about the women's ice hockey team and all Wilkes Athletics, visit gowilkesu.com.



Haylee Bouchard celebrates after hit a goal with Gianna Pacilio empracing her, who assited the goal. The goal came in a 4-3 loss in the first round of the NCAA playoffs.



The team takes the ice for pregame lineups before taking a 4-3 loss in the first round of the NCAA playoffs.

Photos by Sarah Johnson

Butka and Burkhart close storied careers as Colonels

By Zachary Paraway
Sports Editor

It was a historic weekend for Wilkes wrestling as they closed out their 2024-25 season. The Colonels had two wrestlers make the NCAA National Championships for their respective weight classes. Representing the school was Sr. Cameron Butka at 197 lbs and Sr. Caleb Burkhart at 285 lbs.

Both men walked into Saturday as number 1 and 2 in Wilkes history in total wins, with Butka at 134 and Burkhart at 124.

Butka had a great season to that point, adding to his historic season from last year and a historic career. Butka went 39-4 last season, winning regionals and placing 4th in the nation, securing his All-American bid, the first for the school since 2015. He came into this year at 95 wins, looking to close in on the school record for wins at 121 held by Guesseppe Rea ‘17.

Burkhart, a transfer to Wilkes after

his first season, joined the Colonels and immediately got to work on the school record books. He set the record for pins in a season with 24 during his sophomore campaign. His junior year saw him secure a 32-11 record, place third in regionals and qualifying for nationals. He came into 24-25 with 85 wins and the chance to both rise in the all-time wins ranking and reset his record for pins.

Both had great regular seasons, accomplishing a lot for the team each. Burkhart went 39-9 on the season, bringing his career total to 124 wins and second in school history. He had 23 pins on the season, one behind his school record but it did lead all of Division III. He placed second in the region this time and qualified for nationals for a second straight year. The Open Mat had him ranked as 16th in the nation at his weight class and was an honorable mention from d3wrestle.com

Butka had a year for the record books in his last season with the team. In

January, at the John Reese Duals, Butka set the record for most career wins in school history, achieving his 122nd win in a 20-5 technical fall. He again won regionals and qualified for nationals for a second straight year. The Open Mat and d3wrestle.com had him ranked at second in his class, while the National Wrestling Coaches Association had him ranked at third in their coaches poll.

Butka came into Saturday as the second seed in the 197 lbs weight class, and Burkhart came in unseeded for the 285 lbs. Burkhart took two defeats on that Saturday, ending his college career. He fell in a technical fall during the round of 32 and to a decision in the constellation bracket. Burkhart retires as one of the best heavyweights in school history.

Butka had a bye for the round of 32 and jumped straight into the round of 16. He picked up his 1st victory via an 8-2 decision, and got his second win in an 8-1 decision to secure a top six finish and a second straight All-American bid.

On Sunday, he picked up a 4-2 victory against the sixth seed to earn his shot at the national championship. He met 2-time defending national champion and number one seed, Massoma Endene of Wartburg College. Butka would unfortunately fall in this matchup in a 10-3 major decision.

Butka finishes off this season with the most wins in school history for a single season, accomplishing a 42-3 record on the year. He will finish his career as a two-time All-American at 197 lbs and the school record holder for wins in a career with 137.

Wilkes Wrestling will close the door on Butka and Burkhart careers and the 24-25 season. Next year will not only mark a new season for the squad but the introduction of a women’s wrestling team to the school, to be coached by current men’s coach Jon Laudenslager.

To get more information about our wrestling teams and all Wilkes athletics, be sure to check out gowilkesu.com.



BASEBALL SCHEDULE

FEB 16 2:00 P.M. – AT SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY (DH) – WINCHESTER, VA	MAR 30 12:00 P.M. – AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA – WASHINGTON, DC
3:00 P.M. – AT SHENANDOAH UNIVERSITY (DH) – WINCHESTER, VA	APR 1 4:30 P.M. – AT UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON – SCRANTON, PA
FEB 22 11:00 A.M. – VS SUNY COBLESKILL – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD	APR 2 3:30 P.M. – AT DESALES UNIVERSITY – CENTER VALLEY, PA
FEB 23 11:00 A.M. – VS KING’S COLLEGE (PA.) – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD	APR 5 12:00 P.M. – VS JUNIATA COLLEGE (DH) – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD
MAR 1 6:00 P.M. – VS ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY – FORT PIERCE, FL	3:00 P.M. – VS JUNIATA COLLEGE (DH) – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD
MAR 2 12:00 P.M. – VS WAYNESBURG UNIVERSITY (DH, 7 INNINGS) – FORT PIERCE, FL	APR 6 12:00 P.M. – VS JUNIATA COLLEGE – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD
2:30 P.M. – VS WAYNESBURG UNIVERSITY (DH, 7 INNINGS) – FORT PIERCE, FL	APR 9 6:00 P.M. – VS LYCOMING COLLEGE – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD
MAR 4 11:00 A.M. – VS LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE – FORT PIERCE, FL	APR 12 2:00 P.M. – AT MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY (DH) – BETHLEHEM, PA
MAR 6 10:00 A.M. – VS NORWICH UNIVERSITY – FORT PIERCE, FL	3:00 P.M. – AT MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY (DH) – BETHLEHEM, PA
MAR 8 1:00 P.M. – AT OSWEGO STATE (@BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY) – BINGHAMTON, NY	APR 13 12:00 P.M. – AT MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY – BETHLEHEM, PA
MAR 11 3:00 P.M. – AT THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY – EWING, NJ	APR 15 4:30 P.M. – VS UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD
MAR 15 12:00 P.M. – VS ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE (DH) – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD	APR 17 6:30 P.M. – VS KEYSTONE COLLEGE – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD
3:00 P.M. – VS ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE (DH) – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD	APR 22 3:30 P.M. – AT MISERICORDIA UNIVERSITY – DALLAS, PA
MAR 16 12:00 P.M. – VS ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD	APR 23 4:00 P.M. – AT LYCOMING COLLEGE – WILLIAMSPORT, PA
MAR 19 4:30 P.M. – VS PENN STATE HARRISBURG – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD	APR 26 12:00 P.M. – VS SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY (DH) – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD
MAR 22 12:00 P.M. – AT DREW UNIVERSITY (DH) – MADISON, NJ	3:00 P.M. – VS SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY (DH) – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD
3:00 P.M. – AT DREW UNIVERSITY (DH) – MADISON, NJ	APR 27 12:00 P.M. – VS SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD
MAR 23 12:00 P.M. – AT DREW UNIVERSITY – MADISON, NJ	APR 29 4:30 P.M. – VS UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON – BRUGGEWORTH FIELD
MAR 26 3:30 P.M. – AT LYCOMING COLLEGE – WILLIAMSPORT, PA	APR 30 3:30 P.M. – AT IMMACULATA UNIVERSITY – IMMACULATA, PA
MAR 29 12:00 P.M. – AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA (DH) – WASHINGTON, DC	
3:00 P.M. – AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA (DH) – WASHINGTON, DC	

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins cap off busy week with rivalry win

By Adam Grunt
Asst. Sports Editor

The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins capped off a three-game week with a 5-3 victory over the Lehigh Valley Phantoms on Sunday afternoon.

WEDNESDAY, March 12: Penguins 5 vs. Hershey 4

The Penguins kicked off their week with a rivalry win against the first-place Hershey Bears. Ville Koivunen got the party started for Wilkes-Barre/Scranton and Rutger McGroarty scored shortly after his fellow rookie in Koivunen to put the Penguins up by two halfway through the first period. Hershey tied the game at two with goals from Dalton Smith and Ivan Miroshnichenko, but Mathias Laferrrière gave Wilkes-Barre/Scranton the lead late in the second period. Chase Priskie knotted the score for Hershey at the end of the second period.

The Penguins started off hot in the third frame, as Avery Hayes scored before the period was a minute old. Alex Limoges tied the game later on in the third, forcing the game to overtime. Neither team scored in the extra frame, so a shootout was necessary. Sergei Murashov stopped all five Hershey shots in the shootout and Sam Poulin was the only skater to score, clinching Wilkes-Barre/Scranton a much-needed victory.

“Simply put, that was just a great hockey game,” said head coach Kirk MacDonald Wednesday night after the victory. “It’s a shame there weren’t more people here to see it. Just two great teams going at it.”

FRIDAY, March 14: Penguins 1 at Lehigh Valley 3

Lehigh Valley got the best of Wilkes-Barre/Scranton in their first of two weekend matchups at PPL Center in Allentown, besting the visitors 3-1. Phantoms captain Garrett Wilson kicked off the scoring early in the first period, and McGroarty was able to tie the score during the second frame. Ethan Samson gave the Phantoms the lead, and the score remained 2-1 in Lehigh Valley’s favor until Zayde Wisdom concluded

the scoring with an empty net tally.

SUNDAY, March 16: Penguins 5 at Lehigh Valley 3

The Penguins enacted revenge on Lehigh Valley on Sunday afternoon, defeating the Phantoms in a physical, penalty-filled affair.

The Penguins special teams, in particular, thrived on Sunday afternoon at PPL Center. Tristan Broz kicked off the scoring with a power-play goal three minutes after the opening faceoff. Almost immediately after, Joona Koppanen tallied a short-handed goal on a breakaway, giving the Penguins an early two-goal lead. Samson scored for Lehigh Valley for the second game in a row, cutting the Penguins lead to one just five minutes into the contest.

Givani Smith knotted the score for Lehigh Valley three minutes into the second period, but Hayes put the Penguins back in front with a deflection that fluttered over Phantoms goaltender Alexei Kolosov. Nikita Grebenkin retied the game for Lehigh Valley in his first game as a Phantom, but Valtteri Puustinen gave the Penguins the lead once more off a deflection of an Owen Pickering shot from the point.

“We talked after the second, we struggled to get pucks through from the point,” said MacDonald on Sunday afternoon following the Penguins victory in Lehigh Valley. “And then, low and behold, Picks does a great job, gets on his toes, good first move to the middle, and creates a shooting lane for himself, and gets a tip for the game-winner.”

Koppanen sealed the victory for Wilkes-Barre/Scranton on Sunday with an empty net tally to conclude the afternoon’s scoring.

With his ninth consecutive victory to begin his AHL career, Sergei Murashov is now tied for the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton franchise record for a winning streak by a rookie goaltender. The 20-year-old Russian netminder tied Matt Murray who won nine consecutive games during the 2014-15 season.

In addition, the Pittsburgh Penguins recently announced that forward Avery

Hayes is signed to a two-year, NHL contract with Wilkes-Barre/Scranton’s parent club. Hayes has posted 36 points (18 goals, 18 assists) thus far in the 2024-25 season, and was formerly signed to an American Hockey League contract that was set to expire at the conclusion of the season. This allows Pittsburgh to recall Hayes at some point, either this year or next, to contribute at the National Hockey League level.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton concluded a stretch of playing 13 games in 24 days on Sunday in Lehigh Valley, and rest before a pair of weekend home games. On Friday, the Penguins take on the Providence Bruins, who travel to

Northeastern Pennsylvania for the first time this season. Providence currently sits behind the Penguins in the Atlantic Division in third place.

On Saturday, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton takes on a familiar foe in the Hershey Bears. Hershey became the only team thus far to clinch a playoff spot on Sunday with their win over the Chicago Wolves.

As of March 16, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton sits six points behind the Hershey Bears. The two teams are set to face off three more times this season, and every game seems to become more meaningful with each passing day.

For more information on the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, visit wbspenguins.com.



Rutger McGroarty embraces goaltender Sergei Murashov after the Penguins victory over Hershey on Wednesday.

Photo courtesy of KDP Photography

Athlete of the Week

Audrey Milne

Sophomore, Goaltender, Women's Ice Hockey



The Beacon: Female Athlete of the Week
Milne was named the first ever MAC Women's Ice Hockey Championship MVP, making 20 saves and allowing only one goal in the team's 2-1 championship victory over Arcadia.

Major: Sports Management
Hometown: London Onterio, Canada

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

My favourite sports memory as a Colonel has to have been winning the MAC Championship game withmy team!

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

My Favorite sports team is the Pittsburgh Penguins.

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

I enjoy rollerblading and hanging out with friends.

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

My favourite part of being an athlete at Wilkes is the unconditional support from all the staff and other student athletes

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?
Soccer or Basketball

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

My favorite sports memory was winning the league playoff championship with my Junior team in London.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Chicken and Salad

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

I am very honoured to be selected for this amongst many well deserving athletes at Wilkes University.

Compiled by Samantha Mullen, Asst. Sports Editor

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

Jack Mathis

Sophomore, Middle Infield, Men's Baseball

The Beacon: Male Athlete of the Week

Mathis went 4-for-12 with one triple and two runs scored for the Colonels during a 1-2 week. He finished 2-for-3 against Oswego connecting on a single and triple in the Colonels 6-2 setback.

Major: Finance

Hometown: Exeter, PA

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

My best memory as a Colonel was playing baseball on our Florida spring break trip.

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

New York Yankees

What is your favorite thing to do away from sports?

Hanging out with my dog and sleeping.

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

Just being around all my teammates and getting better.

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

Waterboy

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

Basketball

What has been your favorite sports memory overall?

Making the state championship my sophomore year of high school.

What is your favorite post-game meal?

Moe's

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

It's a great honor to be recognized amongst the top athletes at Wilkes.

Compiled by Samantha Mullen, Assistant Sports Editor

The Beacon/Sam Mullen

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



Door's open!

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

- Writers
- Photographers
- Designers
- Distribution managers
- Advertising managers
- ...and more!*



Contact:
sydney.allabaugh@wilkes.edu
kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu



MEN'S LACROSSE SCHEDULE

FEB 15	1:00 P.M.	- VS ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE (LANDMARK)	- SCHMIDT STADIUM
FEB 22	1:00 P.M.	- VS UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH AT BRADFORD	- SCHMIDT STADIUM
FEB 26	4:00 P.M.	- VS MARYWOOD UNIVERSITY	- SCHMIDT STADIUM
MAR 5	5:00 P.M.	- AT VIRGINIA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY	- VIRGINIA BEACH, VA
MAR 8	1:00 P.M.	- VS LEBANON VALLEY COLLEGE	- SCHMIDT STADIUM
MAR 12	7:00 P.M.	- AT KING'S COLLEGE (PA.)	- WILKES-BARRE, PA
MAR 15	1:00 P.M.	- VS HOOD COLLEGE	- SCHMIDT STADIUM
MAR 19	7:00 P.M.	- AT ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY	- READING, PA
MAR 22	1:00 P.M.	- VS MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY (LANDMARK)	- SCHMIDT STADIUM
MAR 26	7:00 P.M.	- AT MOUNT SAINT MARY COLLEGE (NY)	- NEWBURGH, NY
MAR 29	1:00 P.M.	- AT JUNIATA COLLEGE (LANDMARK)	- HUNTINGDON, PA
APR 2	7:00 P.M.	- VS DREW UNIVERSITY (LANDMARK)	- SCHMIDT STADIUM
APR 5	1:00 P.M.	- AT GOUCHER COLLEGE (LANDMARK)	- BALTIMORE, MD
APR 9	7:00 P.M.	- VS LYCOMING COLLEGE (LANDMARK)	- SCHMIDT STADIUM
APR 12	12:00 P.M.	- AT SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY (LANDMARK)	- SELINGROVE, PA
APR 16	6:00 P.M.	- AT UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON (LANDMARK)	- SCRANTON, PA
APR 26	1:00 P.M.	- VS CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA (LANDMARK, SENIOR DAY)	- SCHMIDT STADIUM