



# THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

## Crowds gather in Wilkes-Barre for "Hands Off!" protest



By Leah Smith  
News Editor

"When we fight, we win!" was shouted across the Wilkes-Barre Public Square on Saturday, April 5 at the 'Hands Off!' rally.

Over 1,000 'Hands Off!' rallies were held across the country as a mobilization movement to protest against the Trump administration.

The phrase 'hands off' is used to object threatened budget cuts to several federally funded programs, like Medicare and SNAP. This also expanded to women's rights, public education and immigration rights.

Action Together NEPA organized two protests in the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area. The rally in Scranton was held from noon to 2 p.m., and the rally at the Wilkes-Barre was from 3 to 5 p.m.

Action Together NEPA is the organization behind the rallies in the Wilkes-Barre and Scranton area. Action Together's organization is a progressive organization that focuses on community action and empowering advocacy.

They hold chapters in Luzerne, Lackawanna, Columbia, Montour, Susquehanna and Wayne counties.

State Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski addresses the crowd at the Wilkes-Barre "Hands Off!" protest.

Photo by Leah Smith

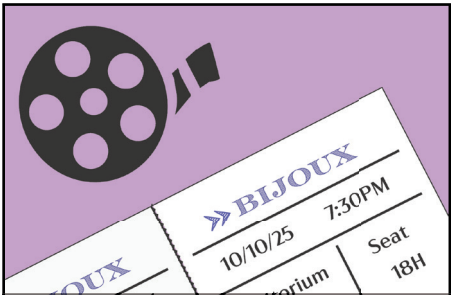
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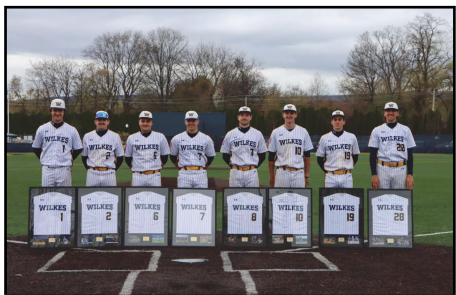
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# News

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

## Student Government notes: April 2 weekly meeting

By Kayla Bicskei  
News Staff Writer

Student Government met for its 11th weekly meeting of the Spring 2025 semester on April 2. The meeting addressed five funding requests from Wilkes University clubs and organizations.

The Student Government Treasurer's report showed a current budget of \$22,003.

The first presentation was given by the Future Business Leaders of America organization for its week one of two funding request. The organization reported its mission of inspiring and preparing students to become business leaders through career preparation and leadership experiences.

The organization is qualified to attend the Future Business Leaders of America National Conference in Dallas, Texas, from May 31 to Jun. 2. To fund the hotel room, flight, and registration costs, the organization is requesting a total of \$2,280.

The Future Business Leaders of America organization will return next meeting for its week two of two funding request.

The Art of Living Club was next to present its week two of two funding request. The club is planning to host two events before the end of the Spring 2025 semester.

The first event the club will host will be a Nepalese New Year's Celebration on April 13. The club is requesting a total of \$500 to

fund the food, utensils, and decorations for the event.

The second event hosted by the club will be an off-campus trip to a Hindu monastery in New Jersey on April 18. To fund transportation to the monastery, the club is requesting a total of \$5,000.

Due to the Student Government's request for more information about the club's planned off-campus trip, The Art of Living Club will return next meeting for another week two of two funding request.

The Math Computer Science Club presented their week two of two funding request for an off-campus trip to the National Museum of Mathematics. The club is working in collaboration with the Commuter Council to use the same transportation for two different trips on the same day.

The club presented that exploration of the museum is an opportunity for club members to experience math is used in practice. Along with the museum, the club members will be able to explore New York City.

The Math Computer Science Club is requesting a total of \$500 for transportation to the National Museum of Mathematics. Student Government voted to allocate an augmented amount of \$1,200 to completely fund the transportation and food costs of the trip along with a visit to the Lego store.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers organization was next to present with its annual Car Show week two of two funding request. The organization reported that there is an anticipated attendance of 350 people this year.

The organization also announced that all profits of this year's Car Show will be donated to Patriots Cove, a nonprofit charity organization.

The American Society of Mechanical Engineers is requesting a total of \$4,325 to fund the shirts, DJ booth, trophies for the best cars, and flyer printing. Student Government voted to allocate the full \$4,325.

Christian Fellowship Club presented the final week two of two funding request of the meeting. The club preparing for its participants' attendance at the 2025 Women's Conference from April 4 to April 6.

The club representatives reported that club members in attendance will listen to speakers and attend seminars teaching them how to manage the challenges of life as women with grace.

The Christian Fellowship Club is requesting general funds for its attendance at the 2025 Women's Conference. Student Government voted to allocate \$390 to the club to fully fund the trip.

Student Government will meet again on April 9.

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### Upcoming Events: Spring 2025

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- 30 - Final Day of Classes

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: leah.smith1@wilkes.edu

## Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Andrew Marshall

### Wilkes Integration Bee

Open to all undergraduate students, the sixth annual Wilkes Integration Bee will take place on April 12 at the Darte Center. Winners will receive either a \$200, \$150 or \$100 prize. Participants are reminded that they should know integration techniques covered in Calculus.

### Fall Parking Pass Applications

Applications are now open for the Fall

2025 semester parking passes. The deadline to apply is July 1 at 5 p.m. If you have any questions, you can contact 570-408-7275. The link can be found on today.wilkes.edu.

### X Ambassadors Concert Tickets

Tickets for the Programming Board's X Ambassadors concert are now on sale, both online and in-person. To purchase tickets, you can go to the SUB on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays during the normal movie ticket sale times. Tickets for Wilkes students are \$15 and \$25 for non-

Wilkes students. The Concert will be held on April 12 at 7 p.m. in the MAC.

### 2025 COBE Research Symposium

The 2025 College of Business and Engineering Research Symposium will take place on April 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the JPAC. The event serves as a way for both faculty and students to showcase their research and academic achievements. For more information, you can contact mona.pear@wilkes.edu.



## ...HANDS OFF *cont. from p.1*

In addition to Action Together NEPA, the Pennsylvanians Together Campaign were also involved in the afternoon's rally. Mark Schaffer of the campaign took the mic to explain what the Trump administration has planned to do with federally funded resources such as social security and SNAP.

"They want to get rid of these programs to make themselves richer," Schaffer said. "These programs are ours, not theirs."

Several other speakers took the mic at the heart of the public square. Speakers such as Kayla Johnson, a veteran who spoke about how the Trump administration has been hurting veterans such as herself by placing cuts on veterans' resources.

She expanded on her fight for veterans to those struggling finding psychological help and to LGBTQIA+ soldiers that are in jeopardy of being out of the military.

"One team, one fight!" Johnson cried out.

Other speakers such as Jimmy Signorelli, a nurse at Geisinger Medical Center, addressed how billionaires are hurting those working in the medical field. Signorelli was one of the attendees of the Geisinger nurses' strike in February.

In addition to that, Lois Scrimm, a

mother who uses SNAP, spoke up about her experience as a single mother on food stamps providing for her son.

"Without these programs, my son and I would've been on the streets. I was able to work for me and my son with these programs," Scrimm said.

Finally, State Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski closed the rally. Pashinski reminded the crowd that the people represent this country, not the billionaires.

"What is happening in Washington is destroying America," Pashinski said.

He continued his speech by reminding the people to call their representatives to stand up against the Trump administration and to keep fighting.

The Wilkes Democrats club held a sign-making session at Abide Coffeehouse before the rally. Kyra Hoyt, friend of the Wilkes Democrats and a King's College student, attended the sign making session and opened up as to why she wanted to fight back.

"I've been looking for an outlet to make change," Hoyt stated

After the rally, several attendees stayed on the square to hold their signs high and to collect more support from passersby in cars and on the streets.

Photos by Leah Smith



Protester in a monkey costume with a sign that reads: "A monkey can do better."



Demonstrator in Wilkes-Barre Public Square protests Trump and Elon Musk.



A protester holds sign advocating for LGBTQIA+ and women's rights.



# Transgender Pride flag raised in Wilkes University ceremony

**By Leah Smith**  
News Editor

"Diversity is having a seat at the table, inclusion is having a voice, and belonging is having that voice be heard."

This quote by author and illustrator Liz Fosslien was used by Wilkes English professor and GSA faculty adviser Helen Davis during the Transgender Pride flag

raising on, April 1.

International Transgender Day of Visibility, known as simply Trans Day of Visibility, is recognized on March 31. The day of recognition was established in 2009 and is still acknowledged to this day.

This day recognizes the trans community in not only solidarity but also in recognition of those in that community.

Wilkes University celebrated Trans Day

of Visibility by raising a trans flag at the flagpole in the greenway. The previous night, the GSA also hosted a ball in recognition of Trans Day of Visibility.

GSA President Morgan Steiner kicked off the breezy morning meetup with words that acknowledged the hard times and tribulations that the trans community has gone through and are continuing to go through. She also took the time to recognize the school's protection for those in the trans community.

"Our trans people are just here to be treated equally and loved like everyone else," Steiner said.

Then, the Wilkes Title IX coordinator Elizabeth Leo took the podium and added her words of solidarity to the trans community. Leo held a meeting about Title IX changes being placed on campus earlier this year. What she said then still holds now: that trans students will be protected and not scrutinized.

"These are anxious times for those in the LGBTQ+ and trans community," Leo said. "We are going to double down on our commitments for those who are marginalized."

After some brief words from Dr. Davis, she opened the podium to students who were willing to go up and share a personal story about their experiences.

Aster Rowland, a junior student, took the microphone first.

Rowland opened up on a personal story during Thanksgiving break involving an unaccepting family member while also thanking her close family for not sharing that particular family member's close-minded attitude toward sexuality.

After Rowland, Ozzie Priebe, a political science major, came to the podium and shared facts with the audience -- facts about schools firing teachers for spreading awareness and posters that opened up love and equality towards their students.

"To be an ally is to speak up for those that can't," Priebe said.

The last speaker before the pink, white and blue flag soared in the sky was a graduate student Assétou Xango, who shared a brief spoken word poem about identity and a need for progressive change around the world.

Dr. Davis concluded the podium section with final words including information about resources for those in the LGBTQIA+ community who are seeking help on campus as well as additional advocacy for the trans community.

To conclude the ceremony, Rowland and Priebe wheeled the flag high in the sky with thunderous applause.

Photos by Leah Smith



Assétou Xango shares a spoken word poem on the greenway.



Ozzie Priebe speaks at the Transgender Pride flag raising ceremony.



Aster Rowland shares a personal story on International Trans Day of Visibility.



# Wilkes students voice technology concerns after GIS data loss

**Sydney Allabaugh**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Wilkes University students from the biology and earth systems sciences (BESS) and civil and environmental engineering (CEE) departments recently met with administrators to voice concerns and discuss solutions after losing years of geographical information system (GIS) data in a drive failure.

"The importance of communication was definitely emphasized there and working together to try to solve the problems and concerns that they have as well as ours," said Caleb Edwards, a junior environmental science and biology double major who attended the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, students sent administrators a letter containing eight pages of student testimonies regarding technology concerns at Wilkes. Students quoted in the letter were not just from the BESS and CEE departments, but from digital design and media art and beyond.

"It's nice that we can actively make a change if we play a part in working towards it," Edwards said.

The meeting primarily focused on the GIS drive failure and its resulting setbacks. The drive stored data, research, senior projects and course files dating back a decade or more.

Edwards lost foundational research for his senior project that builds upon 10 years of previous work.

"We had some scraps that we're pulling together that we saved elsewhere, but a lot of the main work has disappeared, so it was kind of just starting from square one again," he said.

Reagan Weldon Peri, a junior geology major who also attended the meeting, lost all her data for her senior project and two and a half years of lab work. More than a week of her classes were canceled as well.

"The mental impact it has had on my professors has been hard for me, especially with my one professor, Dr. Karimi," she said. "He has lost 15 years' worth of work as well as \$20,000 worth of aerial photos that he's been collecting."

Dr. Karimi previously said he has been staying up late and sacrificing his personal time to remake lectures, assignments, exams and labs. He also has been trying to figure out how to progress his research after losing much of it.

"Because this is such a small community, we really get to know each other, both classmates and the professors, so a win for one is a win for all and a loss for one is a loss for all," Edwards said. "This failure definitely impacted a lot of the community, not just professors, but students alike."

Edwards and Weldon Peri said that they

felt administrators heard their concerns and answered their questions at the meeting.

"I do genuinely think that they did really hear what was in the letter because they were referring to the quotes that they had read previously," Weldon Peri said.

Kerianne Geist, associate vice president of marketing communications, said in an email, "We appreciated the students' time and thoughtfulness in presenting their IT concerns and remain committed to open dialogue to address various issues."

However, the students also felt that some of their concerns were not fully understood.

"Overall, I think they were sensitive to the issue, but I just don't think that someone who hasn't done this type of research can fully understand the gravity of this loss," Weldon Peri said.

They were dissatisfied with attempts to minimize the impact of the loss and reduce it down to a routine technological failure.

"The hardware of the server breaking is routine, but what wasn't routine was the failure of the backup system," Edwards said. "So, the server failing isn't necessarily out of the ordinary, but the backup system is really what was concerning."

The students and Dr. Karimi said the drives were sent to a company that

specializes in data recovery. It is not yet known if the data can be recovered.

"Myself and Faith, my senior project partner, have already had to redo work because of this," Weldon Peri said. "It's not like we can just pause and wait for this all to be recovered. We have to continue working on our senior projects."

Administrators and students developed a plan to help mitigate future technological problems. They put an emphasis on improving communication.

"Importantly, it was agreed that the university would reinforce guidance that students should contact the IT Help Desk (#HELP) to report issues such as slow Wi-Fi so they can be specifically addressed," Geist said in an email. "Changes have already been made to the portal and web graphics, and communications about the Help Desk will be more frequent."

Gerald Korea, ITS executive director, sent out an email to all students a few days after the meeting. Korea reminded students to use the "Colonel" network and to contact the Help Desk with any problems regarding internet connectivity or software updates and licensing.

"An important outcome of the meeting is that we can be part of the solution," Edwards said. "Students can actually contribute towards improving technology at Wilkes."

## Wilkes will soon hold a blood drive: The importance of donating

**Shannon Slominski**  
*Photographer*

Donating blood saves lives. Did you know one donation of blood can save up to three lives?

Wilkes University will hold a blood drive on April 22. Anyone interested in donating can register to reserve a spot.

Blood donations help hospitals maintain a steady supply in emergency situations like traumas and emergency surgeries. That is why blood drives play a vital role in communities across the country.

The demand for blood is constant. Hospitals require a steady supply throughout the year, and blood drives help maintain this critical resource.

According to the American Red Cross website, anyone 16 or older, weighing 110 pounds or more can donate blood, provided they are in good health. Individuals can donate blood every 56 days, or up to six times per year.

Increased awareness about this ongoing need can mobilize communities to organize and participate in regular blood donation events. Every donation has the potential to save multiple lives.

One pint of blood can be separated into its components red cells, plasma, and platelets, each serving vital functions in medical treatments. For patients undergoing major surgery, those battling cancer, or victims of accidents, a steady supply of blood can make the difference between life and death.

Blood drives not only provide a necessary medical resource but also foster a strong sense of community. By participating in these events, individuals come together with a shared purpose, promoting teamwork and collective responsibility. Each donor becomes a part of a larger effort, reinforcing social bonds and encouraging a culture of giving.

Blood drives are vital to saving lives, fostering community spirit, and enhancing public health. By understanding their importance and actively participating, we can ensure that our communities remain strong, compassionate and prepared to meet the medical needs of all individuals.

Sign up to reserve a spot. To register, visit [redcross.org](http://redcross.org) and use the code WILKESU.

**TO REGISTER:**



**CODE: WILKESU**



# Wilkes University mourns the loss of Joshua Pittenger

By Brady Melovitz

Layout Designer/News Staff Writer

On March 16, Wilkes University was deeply impacted by the news of student Joshua Pittenger's unexpected death. Pittenger was a senior civil engineering major from Bangor, Pa.

According to his obituary, Pittenger was born in Bethlehem, Pa. on Feb. 17, 2002. He went to Bangor High School where he was a student athlete, being named the Scholar Athlete for the high school football team. During his free time, he enjoyed wrestling, kayaking, camping and spending time with his family and friends.

Pittenger came to Wilkes University in 2024 after transferring from Northampton Community College.

Following Pittenger's death, Wilkes University President Greg Cant sent out an email to Wilkes students, faculty and staff.

"In his time on campus, (Pittenger) made a positive impact on his faculty and fellow students with his academic dedication and

strong, steady presence," Cant said in the email.

Dr. Brian Whitman, professor of environmental and civil engineering, had Pittenger as a student. Whitman mentioned Joshua's light-hearted attitude in class and more specifically his smile which he had everyday.

"Josh worked well with others and always came in with a smile and was eager to learn," Whitman said. "I was sad to hear of his passing."

Whitman also mentioned how Pittenger was always in the front row of the classroom, which showcased his enthusiasm and excitement for his classes.

Shiv Patel, senior chemistry and neuroscience major, spoke to the person Pittenger was outside the classroom.

"He was very jolly," Patel said. "His energy was never down and he would always have a smile whenever I would see him. You know if I could describe him in a word, jolly is what I would say."

Not only was Patel a fellow student to

Pittenger, but they were also neighbors.

"It still feels surreal, you know, one day he is here and you're talking to him and the next he's gone," Patel said.

A memorial service for Pittenger was held on campus in the Savitz Lounge to celebrate Pittenger's life and legacy.

As the Wilkes campus continues to mourn the loss, Mark Allen, associate vice president for Student Life and Success, advises students who need support during these difficult times to reach out.

"As we navigate this tragic loss, let us lean on one another, offering kindness, strength, and support to those who need it most," Allen said in an email. "As a Wilkes community, we remain steadfast in our commitment to caring for one another and ensuring that no one faces their grief alone."

For support, call 570-408-4100 to schedule an appointment with the Counseling Center in Passan Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Resources are also available to students 24/7 at 570-408-CHAT (2428).



**Joshua Pittenger.**

Photo from Joshua Pittenger's obituary.

# Students visit Wilkes at Admitted Colonels Day

By Sydney Allabaugh

Editor-in-Chief



**Isabella Barberio photographs a future Colonel in the MAC.**



**Wilkes students tell admitted Colonels and their families about clubs and organizations on campus during the student activities fair.**



**Wilkes University President Greg Cant addresses the crowd.**



# 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)

## Annual Sex Bingo returns to campus, draws crowd

**By Kailey Vogel**  
News Writer

April 1 was an exciting day for students on campus. Reslife hosted its annual Sex Bingo allowing students to learn about safe sex while competing for various sex related prizes.

Some baskets such as the “Sneaky Link” and “Not Your Parent’s Sex Talk” baskets consisted of books, toys, and latex-free condoms for winners.

Students formed a line outside SLC 105 around 7 p.m., eager to get inside. Kendyl Keefer, a sophomore pre-pharmacy student, was among one of the many attendees that came out to participate.

“I wanted to win a prize, but I did not,” she said.

Students were encouraged to wear teal to be entered for a door prize. Extra boards were also sold for \$1 each.

All proceeds were donated to the Victims Resource Center, which had an informational table available throughout the night.

By the end of the event \$132 was donated to the cause.

Resident assistants Brennan Reiner and Gabriel Sawarynski informed students of the risks of STIs and promoted safe sex through an informational PowerPoint. They informed students that “one in five college students has been abused by an intimate partner and almost one in three college women is a victim of dating abuse.”

Each slide highlighted the importance of consent and contraception use. Various statistics were also displayed.

Near the end of the presentation, slides provided resources for those who have been, or may know someone who has been, sexually assaulted.

“We gotta teach the importance of having safe sex. I mean, we showed the statistics of STDs. You have cases of



**Resident assistants pour mocktails for students to enjoy with their pizza. Students attending Residence Life’s annual Sex Bingo learned valuable information on sexual health and sexual violence before playing bingo for a variety of themed prizes.**

**Photo by Kailey Vogel**

HIV and STDs that run rampant,” said Sawarynski. “You have cases of lawsuits too because people unknowingly give STDs.”

“So, presenting and raising awareness for that is really important to make sure that people perform safe sex.”

Bingo followed the informational session and tiebreakers consisted of answering sex related questions based on the earlier educational slideshow presentation.

Giada Gowden was the winner of one of the baskets distributed throughout the night. When asked how it feels to win sex bingo, the first-year nursing major replied, “It’s definitely different from

winning regular bingo.”

Throughout the game, resident assistants walked by and dropped Skittles into students’ mocktails. This demonstrated how easily it is to be roofied or drugged, warning students of the dangers.

When the event concluded, some students left having important conversations on the information they had learned.

“I think my favorite part about sex bingo was Gabe’s presentation. I love seeing our RAs get out of their element and to go up and do presentations that engage people and get people riled up and having a good time,” said Daniel

Yap, Slocum Hall RA.

Safe sex and sexual assault are important topics to be educated on in college. Reslife was able to incorporate this education into a fun game of bingo. Students were reminded that if they see something, they should say something, because no one is, nor should be alone in a time of need.

Wilkes University offers many resources for students on campus. Free Counseling Services are offered on the second floor of Passan Hall and Health Services provide STD counseling for students.

They also supply free condoms and women’s sanitary supplies.



**Sydney Allabaugh:**  
Open Hearted - The Garden

**Sam Mullen:**  
Night Moves - Bob Seger

**Leah Smith:**  
Bury the Light - Casey Edwards

**Brady Melovitz:**  
Tarzan Boy - Baltimora

**Andrew Marshallsay:**  
Good Directions - Billy Currington

**Shawn Carey:**  
Maggot - Dazey and the Scouts

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



# Wilkes University Theatre puts on As You Like It

**By Anthony Kehs**  
Special to the Beacon

*Editor's note: Anthony Kehs is a cast member of As You Like It.*

After four years, The Bard is back onstage at Wilkes.

The Wilkes University Theatre Department presents *As You Like It*, directed by Jon Liebetrau and assistant directed by junior musical theatre major Maddie Meier, this weekend in the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts..

Wit and romance thrive in this comedic Shakespeare play, where feuding brothers spark exile and transformation. Young Orlando escapes his wicked brother Oliver and wins the heart of Rosalind, daughter of the exiled Duke Senior.

After being banished herself by Duke Frederick, Rosalind disguises as a man and flees with her cousin, Celia and the court fool, Touchstone to the Forest of Arden. In the Forest of Arden, love blooms and identities blur until truth is revealed and peace is restored with weddings and forgiveness in the wilds of the wood.

"we are setting [*As You Like It*] in the 1960s around the Summer of Love/Woodstock era where there was a real confrontation between the establishment and the anti-establishment, which I think mirrors what we are experiencing today and the turmoil they went through in that era," Liebetrau said.

"I think it's really important in these times when people disagree, to watch a play that starts out with many people disagreeing and finding ways to come together and create a better union."

First-year musical theatre major Antonio Torres enjoys the giving of themselves to the play.

"The most exciting part of rehearsal is that we get to play. We are still in that stage where we get to play with the script and make it our own," Torres said.

In addition to being the last show of



From left, first row, Antonio Torres and Kasey Karoli. Second row, Bella Ruiz and John Quick.

the 2024-2025 season, *As You Like It* will also be the final show at Wilkes for seniors Kasey Karoll and Bella Ruiz

"I love this role so much because I see a lot of myself in her, and I think I'm bringing a lot of myself into this character," said Karoll, who plays Rosalind. "She's such a me character."

"I am also really proud of everyone in it. I think everyone is bringing a little bit of themselves into the world of the play and it makes the show all of the more special, which only makes leaving harder."

Ruiz plays Celia.

"I am so thankful for this opportunity. It's kind of like a capstone in a way where I am able to think about everything that I have learned beforehand and somehow encapsulate it into giving the

best performance I can to say goodbye to the stage."

Liebetrau hopes the audience will be able "to think and process and find ways to accept people that don't necessarily think the same way that they do, but will get along with them and can create an environment where people work together and can accept each other."

The Wilkes University Theatre Department will perform *As You Like It* on April 10, 11 and 12 at 8 p.m. and April 12 and 13 at 2 p.m.

The cast includes Torres as Orlando, John Quick as Oliver, Jesse Lawson as Adam/William, Karoll as Rosalind, Ruiz as Celia, Caleb Flannery as Touchstone, Anthony Kehs as Duke Senior, Evan Cole as Duke Fredrick/Corin, Elias Brix as Charles/Silvius, Elena DiSciullo as

Phoebe, Hope Jacobus as Audrey, Ella Villani as Le Beau, Alby Lopuhovsky as Jaques, Rocco Pugliese as Amiens, Madelyn Rex as Duke Senior's First Lord, Lexi Wesnak as Duke Senior's Second Lord/Sir Oliver Martext, Melissa Reyes as Duke Fredrick's First Lord, Jacob Cintronelle as Duke Fredrick's Second Lord, and Maddie Meier as Hymen.

Tickets cost \$15 for general admission, \$10 for students and seniors, and are free for anyone with a Wilkes University ID.

To purchase tickets for *As You Like It*, please visit [wilkes.edu/theatre](http://wilkes.edu/theatre) or visit the box office an hour before showtime at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Center for the Performing Arts on the corner of West South and South River streets.



# Finals season means practicing self-care

**By Natalia Williams**  
Staff Writer

With finals season approaching, prioritizing self-care and taking care of mental health is extremely important.

The end of the semester can be a really busy time with papers, exams and projects, which often causes students to forget about their well-being. But forgetting to take breaks and neglecting one's overall mental health, can make it harder to succeed in assignments or things that need to be done in general.

"Self-care involves the activities that we intentionally engage in to maintain our physical, emotional, and mental wellness," said Maria Richards, the Director of Counseling at the University Counseling Center.

Practicing self-care during finals week or a stressful time in general is important because it helps reduce stress and anxiety, and it can help with productivity.

It can also prevent burnout.

"One of the most important self-care practices is establishing a regular routine of eating and sleeping. This keeps our bodies and our minds nourished and replenished to fuel the energy and focus needed to complete tasks and manage stress," Richards said.

Everyone has different ways to care for themselves that work best for them.

"Some examples are reaching out to friends and family, engaging in a hobby, practicing relaxation techniques (yoga, meditation), and listening to music. It is important to identify activities that offer recharge and rest, not just distraction or numbing," Richards said.

Juggling many exams and/or projects can be tough. Time management and balance is important in order to prevent burnouts or even more stress.

"I think a good starting point in managing stress when facing multiple demands is to be proactive with maintaining balance," she said. "This involves being intentional with prioritizing and organizing time not only to study, but also building breaks to rest and recharge."

Each student during their time at Wilkes or their school career overall has found their way of taking breaks and balancing their time.

"I balance my breaks and study by figuring out what space is really needed," said sophomore business administration major Jaylin Cazares Gaspar.

"For example, I would like to study right before class and if I have a two hour

gap between classes, the first hour is a break and the second hour is study."

For self-care methods, Jaylin says she takes breaks every couple of minutes so she doesn't overwork herself.

According to sophomore nursing major, Anthony Vissotski, organization helps him.

"I have a very strict schedule that allows time for both studying and down time. And what I do during breaks is drink water and chill."

Finding a favorite way to take brain breaks during studying is imperative for a smooth and less stressful studying session.

"... these breaks are what are inherently needed at regular points during these times in order to maintain a healthy mindset."

Richards gave several ideas for relieving stress, including taking a short break by going for a walk outside, calling a friend or listening to music.

Not only are taking breaks and time management important, but staying connected with family and friends is another aspect as well. All can provide a feeling of comfort and a strong support system provides motivation.

"If students are struggling, opening up

to a trusted friend or family member is a powerful step," according to Richards.

"One can start by asking, 'Do you have time to talk?' in order to convey that you're reaching out."

The Wilkes University Counseling Center offers free counseling for students in need of emotional support or just someone to talk to.

"Some students come regularly, and others come as needed. It can help talk things through with a counselor, and students come for a variety of reasons (stress, anxiety, depression, self-esteem, relationships, and many more)...When Wilkes students have an urgent need to speak with a counselor, 27/7 support is available 570-408-CHAT (2428)."

With the last final months of the academic year coming up, prioritizing self-care is incredibly important and essential. Taking study breaks, managing stress and things to do can make a huge difference in mental health and overall academic success.

Students can reach out to the counseling for an appointment at 570-408-4100 and to get more information, visit [wilkes.edu/counseling](http://wilkes.edu/counseling) for more information.

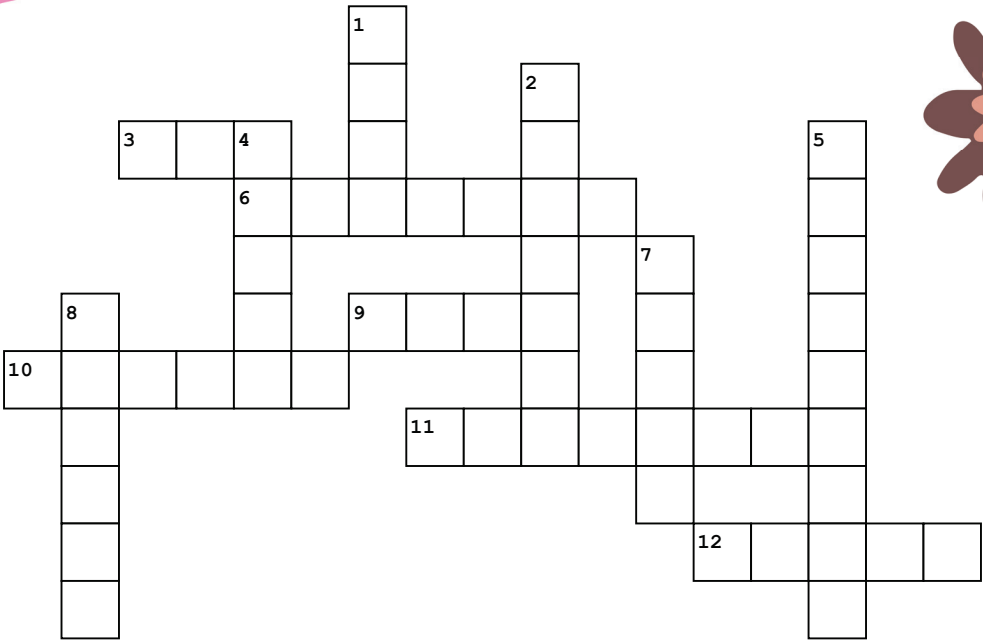
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Email [kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu](mailto:kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu) with details and contact information.**



# Spring Crossword Puzzle

## Spring Crossword Puzzle

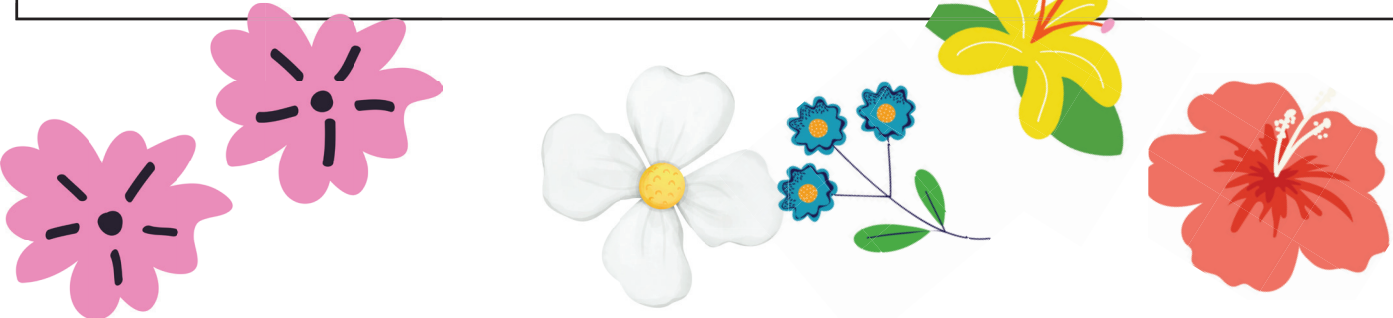
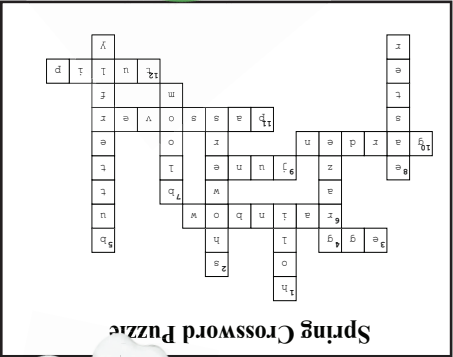


### Across

- 3. Common ingredient in Easter recipes; it could be eaten on its own.
- 6. Often seen after a spring rain shower.
- 9. The month that marks the start of summer, but it's still spring in the early days.
- 10. A place where flowers or vegetables are planted.
- 11. A week-long Jewish holiday celebrated in the spring.
- 12. A popular spring flower.

### Down

- 1. Hindu spring festival characterized by colorful powder.
- 2. April \_\_\_\_ bring May flowers.
- 4. What animals often do in the fresh spring grass.
- 5. A colorful insect often seen in spring.
- 7. What flowers do in spring.
- 8. A spring holiday often associated with eggs and bunnies.





# STUDENT ELECTION WINNERS



**ADAM  
BUTTERWICK**

**STUDENT BODY  
PRESIDENT**

My name is Adam Butterwick, and I am a junior mechanical engineering major here at Wilkes! I spend most of my time either studying or at the gym. However, I am also involved in some of the many clubs on campus, including the Wilkes branch of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and of course our Student Government program. Whenever I am not doing some sort of work for my academics or extracurriculars, you can almost certainly see me striking conversation in the SUB or the library in between study sessions.

As for the results of the election, I am more than elated to be given the opportunity to make changes to our Student Government program in order to better serve the campus community. Some of those changes include a focus on allowing input from the campus through both analog and digital mediums, and then implementing these suggestions into our meeting agendas, which is not something traditionally done due to the difficult logistics.

Not only that, but I plan on putting a lot of energy to general campus outreach, whether it be through our larger scale events like Casino Night and Homecoming, or small Q&A's or "town halls" for my constituents to attend if they deem necessary. It has been made clear as a product of the times that the voices of the public matter more than ever, and my plan is to make sure people feel heard and acknowledged to bring a level of transparency to both Student Government and Wilkes as a whole that has not been seen before.



**LOGAN  
COLONNA**

**PROGRAMMING BOARD  
PRESIDENT**

My name is Logan Colonna and I'm a junior marketing student! Besides Programming Board, I'm involved with both WCLH and The Beacon. As for WCLH, I'm the Marketing Director and Hip Hop Director. I'm also one of the assistant editors for The Beacon's opinion section.

I'm purely ecstatic over my win. I've dedicated these past two years in preparing myself professionally and personally just for this role, so it's rewarding to see all of my hard work finally pay off.

I plan to give the student body more of a voice in this upcoming year. I meant it when I said I wish to serve the student body over myself. I also plan to teach the next president in line everything I learn so that Programming Board stays in line with my vision way down the line.





**CHARLENE  
DIXON**

**MULTICULTURAL STUDENT  
COALITION PRESIDENT**

I am Charlene Dixon, an incoming senior majoring in nursing. I currently serve as an International Nursing Mentor with the Office of Global Engagement, where I support international students in their academic journeys. Additionally, I am an active member of the Nursing Student Organization (NSO) and the Society of Student Nurses (SSN). Beyond campus, I work as a Patient Care Technician at my hometown hospital, gaining hands-on experience in patient care.

I am incredibly honored and grateful to have been elected President of the Multicultural Student Coalition (MSC). Thank you to everyone who supported me throughout this journey—I truly appreciate your confidence in my leadership. As I step into this role, I am excited to dedicate myself fully to MSC and continue building on its strong legacy. With the help of an outstanding Executive Board, I am confident that we will foster an even more inclusive and engaging community.

My vision for MSC includes maintaining the incredible annual events that bring our campus together, such as One World, the Annual Cultural Cookout, and the Mega BBQ Bash. These events are essential to our organization, and I look forward to enhancing them while also introducing new initiatives. I plan to increase collaborations with our sister organizations and create events that celebrate and educate others about diverse cultures in meaningful ways. I can't wait to see what this year holds for MSC, and I am excited to serve as your President!

**AMY  
MARTINEZ**

**RESIDENCE HALL COUNCIL  
PRESIDENT**

Hello, my name is Amy Martinez! I'm a second-year student who's actively involved in campus leadership and majoring in Accounting and Business Management within the Wilkes Honors Program. Some of my leadership positions include being the incoming President of the Residence Hall Council (RHC), a Career Ambassador for accounting majors, and a student representative on the Student Assessment Advisory Board. I have a strong interest in community service and work with organizations like the Commission on Economic Opportunity (CEO) and the Rural Health Corporation of NEPA. Along with this, I enjoy organizing events that promote fun and relaxation while helping others connect with each other. Outside of my responsibilities, you can usually find me on a walk or reading a book.

It feels exciting to have won this election. I am honored to have been nominated by the Residence Hall Council boards and to be trusted with serving as RHC President for 2025-26. I'm motivated to represent the council, residents, and the Wilkes community in the best way I can. I'm looking forward to building even more relationships and making a positive impact on campus.

As President of the Residence Hall Council, my primary focus will be to connect residence halls with the Wilkes community. I plan to make the most of RHC's resources to organize inclusive events that cater to a variety of student interests, while offering educational and career opportunities. I also aim to improve communication between residents, Reslife, and campus organizations. My goal is to ensure that every resident feels safe and supported during my term, creating an environment that invites the sharing of ideas and concerns.





# Opinion

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

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Est. 1936  
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## Our Voice

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

## Importance of holding celebrities accountable

Celebrity culture is really something to behold. We spend so much time and resources monitoring each and every moment of these celebrities' day. While many celebrities choose to avoid the limelight to some degree, there's plenty that embrace it.

It's not uncommon to see celebrities interacting with fans. There's meet and greets, social media, mailing lists, whatever else. On paper there's nothing wrong with this. It's a great way to build community.

Some celebrities take it too far however. Unwanted messages, creepy DMs, inappropriate touching. There are celebrities that believe that they can do whatever they want and get away with it. This often fails.

Recently, former "Impractical Joker" star Joe Gatto was accused of messaging and sexually assaulting a 19-year-old fan. The star allegedly got the young individual drunk before leading her back to his hotel room in September 2023, a

year and a half ago. That's how long it took for the allegations to go public.

As of now, it's currently unknown if Joe is going to face charges.

Out of every 1000 sexual assaults, 975 perpetrators will walk free, according to RAINN. Even if the allegations are true, it could be possible that he will get no more than a slap on the wrist. This entire situation begs the question: Should we be holding celebrities more accountable?

We often view celebrities as mythical figures. We look up to them; we're inspired by them; we want to be them. Much like heroes of myth, they can do no wrong. We forget that they're human just like us, humans with influence and power.

They aren't our friends; we don't truly know them. While I don't doubt that there's plenty of celebrities that appreciate their fans, there's plenty that treat them as just a number.

It can be difficult to put them down

at our level. After all, most people don't have an army of thousands of loyal followers, which is why I believe that we shouldn't. We should instead expect more.

They don't have the same resources or responsibility as us; they have even more. It's because of this that we should expect them to use them wisely. If they want to be treated like heroes, then they should act like it.

We should also always expect the worst. It is a rather depressing thought but it's something to think about. Who knows what these people are hiding or how much money they're spending to keep the victims silent.

Even in cases in which celebrities are found guilty of harassment, assault or worse, there are fans that defend their actions. We should not give these individuals a pass just because they are famous.

Everywhere you go you see it. Treat celebrities as you would treat a stranger.

**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: The Nintendo Switch 2 is almost here

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

Welcome back to the Icebox. In today's issue, there is a rather critical matter to discuss. The “Nintendo Direct” for the successor of the Nintendo Switch finally aired globally. Not even seconds into the presentation, my mind was blown.

The Direct begins with a detailed trailer for the latest installment in the Mario franchise, “Mario Kart World” which can have up to 24 racers. The courses are gigantic and a mix of tracks from previous games; the roster is quite abundant, previously vaulted items are making a return and you can drive around in an open-world setting.

That last bit is clearly a lot to unpack for a Mario Kart game. As a kid I always wondered how cool it would be to just be able to drive anywhere. Now it looks like my dreams are becoming reality with the “free roam” game mode where you can get together with your friends and drive around on a large map.

The Switch 2 revealed some of the features that everyone suspected before. The Joy-Con 2 does feature a mouse sensor and is

claimed to be more durable. Everything about the console is bigger except for its thickness. The console will support 1080p resolution with 120 frames per second in handheld mode and potentially supporting 4K resolution when docked. The dock houses a separate cooling system so that higher-power gaming is within reach. The native storage space is now 256 gigabytes, which is eight times that of its predecessor.

Funny enough, Nintendo has only just caught up to industry standards. This hardware is impressive for a Nintendo console, but relatively tame otherwise. It's the fact that Nintendo creators never fail to make their projects super unique that carries them such a long way. Another positive note here is that the console has everything that people were hoping for.

As previously discussed in an online issue of the Icebox, there is a mysterious “C” button on the controllers. That has been revealed to toggle a new feature called “GameChat.” This allows players to connect to each other in real time with voice, screen sharing and even video if they purchase the Nintendo webcam accessory. This addition to the console is absolutely insane, acting as a built-in alternative to Discord. While

the exact performance is still up in the air for this, it's clear that Nintendo wants to support the family-friendly aspect of gaming with this feature.

Additionally, Nintendo has finally made greater measures to enhance the definition of “Nintendo Switch family.” First, it was revealed in another recent Direct that the systems would support virtual game cards. These are transferable copies of a digital game that can be shared with other consoles.

The Nintendo Switch 2 will also be able to locally share a game to another console so both can run the game at once, just like how the now-discontinued DS systems. Transferring data from one console to another has also been made easier and faster. Of course, some of these features will require a Nintendo Online membership.

Speaking of Nintendo Online, there is still no intel on whether or not the service has been improved. Fans are hoping for “rollback netcode” which is the most optimal way to arrange an online service for a video game.

Games from the original Switch will be playable on the Switch 2, and some of them are even receiving updates to

push potential for the new hardware. For example, the open-world Zelda games will be playable in 4K on the Switch 2. “Mario Party Jamboree” will actually include entirely new content that will make use of the new mouse and webcam features.

Mario Kart is usually the designated launch title for Nintendo devices, but along with it are many Nintendo originals and collaborative projects, some of which are very surprising. Needless to say, a lot of bold statements were made when Nintendo revealed some of the launching and developing titles.

For example, a Nintendo-exclusive game by FromSoftware, called “The Duskblooms” is going to be released soon. The same developers made “Elden Ring,” which is also going to be released for the Switch 2. Several big titles have already pitched in with their normal editions, such as EA Sports and Square Enix.

The Switch 2 Direct has been an absolute revival of the Nintendo atmosphere, which died years ago. Not only did the representatives indirectly challenge competitors, but they have already established a spotlight with Indie developers.

# Why you should play the “Devil May Cry” video game

By Leah Smith

News Editor

Upon the release of the highly anticipated Netflix anime adaptation of the video game series “Devil May Cry,” people online have vocalized their interest in not only the show but the game series in general. This is your guide to the series, what to expect and how to purchase the games.

“Devil May Cry” is a Capcom distributed video game series. This game would be categorized as a hack-and-slash franchise akin to that of the “Doom” and “God of War” series. “Devil May Cry” is led by the franchise's pizza-loving and charismatic protagonist Dante.

Dante is one of the sons of the devil, Sparda. Sparda is the devil hero that came from this game's version of hell who vowed to protect the human world from hell's evil forces.

However, when Dante and his brother Virgil were children, they were ambushed and their human mother Eva was killed and Sparda disappeared and later killed. His body becomes a sword that is used later in the franchise.

“Devil May Cry” is Capcom's most underrated franchise despite it having a highly anticipated and beloved anime adaptation and niche internet fanbase. There has not been a new game to enter the series since “Devil May Cry 5” in 2019.

The series offers a fun charismatic lead as well as other fan-favorite characters: Virgil, the most recurring antagonist, Trish and Lady, Dante's partners in his demon hunting business ventures, and Nero, who ends up becoming a co-lead in the franchise's later games with Dante.

“Devil May Cry” is an incredibly fun game series with a fun and engaging storyline that newcomers will be able

to follow along with pretty easily. The combat and gameplay improves as the series progresses. Obviously, since the first game came out in 2000, playing the game nowadays would prove challenging but nostalgic.

The series is not in chronological order though. “Devil May Cry 3” is technically where the series begins in terms of Dante's journey into finding out he is half-demon and beginning the demon hunting business. How you play the games is up to you of course, but if you are one for chronological order then “Devil May Cry 3” is the place to start.

The series offers an array of fun and exciting gameplay and weaponry and the later installments sure test your skills with those elements. The gameplay in the series tests your combo skills by indicating a meter that starts from D and goes up to SSS.

By reaching to SSS, you will be able to reach more points that you can use to purchase in the games' store options. In the early games, the store is located via a golden lion statue while in “Devil May Cry 5” the store can also be reached via statue but mostly from the van driven by side character, Nico, who builds weapons for the leads Dante and Nero.

If you end up liking the show and are interested in the games, I highly recommend checking out “Devil May Cry.” The series is one of my all time favorite video game franchises because of the fun gameplay and engaging plot and characters as well as the game's hard rock/nu-metal aesthetic and presentation.

There is a collection including the first three to four games located on online platform stores and at gaming stores in person. The fifth game is sold by itself but should be available at a reasonable price.



# Baseball's Torpedo Bats: Nothing special, but they may work

**By Andrew Marshallsay**  
Asst. News Editor

The New York Yankees have started their season on a hot streak, launching home runs like clockwork in the early stages.

Propelled by a high powered offense, one thing has stood out: the new “torpedo bats.” Designed by a physics professor hired by the Yankees, the bats were created to better help a hitter find their sweet spot on the bat. The barrel on these bats is fattened at the certain part of where a certain player tends to make the most contact on a standard-issue bat.

The bats aren't anything entirely new, and they aren't a way for players to cheat.

Yankees slugger Giancarlo Stanton used one in the 2024 postseason and had a good stretch of games during the AL Pennant run.

New York Mets shortstop Franciso Lindor used one as well last year and finished as a National League MVP finalist.

Other than that, it's not entirely clear when these bats first appeared in baseball.

Major League Baseball has come out and said that the bats are completely legal and don't violate any rules on equipment. However, the bats aren't really anything special.

Some have come out and said that the bats are “wrong” or “cheating,” but really, they're just giving a player a better idea of

where to hit the ball.

Most baseball players tend to hit the ball with the same part of the bat over, and over again. Pure sluggers are going to have a certain point of contact with the bat, contact hitters are going to have another point of contact.

With the torpedo bats, the main aim is to just maximize hitting. Again, there are some that say that the bats are illegal, but they just aren't. Unlike corking a bat which gives the bat less weight, the torpedo bat weighs the exact same as a normal bat. There's nothing illegal about it, it's just about maximizing contact.

It changes for every player, thus the torpedo bats are for different players. Since

they're just now being adopted by teams and players other than the Yankees, the science and links between the bats and increased hits just isn't there yet. It'll take some time before we really know if these bats are working.

Quite frankly, the bats may give advantages to hitters, the key word being “may.” The evidence may be there, however it's too early to tell if these bats are actually contributing to home runs, or good players are just starting the season having good games.

While they may be a cool thing, they may well just end up being a gimmick. However, those who use the torpedo bats seem to like them so far.

# Alternate history: The New Order vs. The Man in the High Castle

**By Noah Garraoui**  
Contributing Writer

The most common question among those who discuss alternate history is, “What if the Axis had won World War II?” And by most common, I do mean it's a subject that has been beaten to death and then beaten even more.

Nevertheless there is still a way to do it well and a way to do it poorly, and as such I submit two examples to demonstrate a case in which this alternate history scenario was engaged with on realistic, intriguing, and nuanced grounds, and other that isn't.

Respectively, I am referring to the “Hearts of Iron IV” mod, “The New Order,” and the book turned TV show adaptation, “The Man in the High Castle.”

And yes I would like to clarify that I am saying the video game mod has superior world building to the big budget TV. The whole subject is surrounded by conjecture of how modifying something or other about the Axis war effort would have decisively turned the tables on the Allies, so before getting into the meat of this subject, I feel beholden to dispel some of these theories and the faulty grounds they depend upon, though they are not ones which either example rest upon.

First and foremost, the loss of the British Expeditionary Force at Dunkirk would have been extremely unlikely to catalyse a

British surrender. Churchill had made up his mind about no peace for cooperation with Nazi Germany. While manpower would have certainly been a concern in the face of the loss of a third of a million men, this could have been remedied by troops from the Commonwealth. Furthermore, Germany was never going to invade England.

Consider the monumental effort it took to enact D-Day, technological innovations, the sheer quantity of men and material, and the near total control of the air and sea. Even at the height of its capabilities, Germany was nowhere near able to pull this off primarily because of how outmatched the Luftwaffe and Kriegsmarine were to the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy.

Last among the myths of how Germany could have won WWII is to simply concentrate the German invasion of the Soviet Union upon Moscow and take the city before the onset of winter. This point misunderstands the character of Stalin and the nature of the war between the USSR and Germany. It was a total war, and for the Soviet Union, it was a war of survival in which German designs post-war dictated the eradication of the inhabitants of Eastern Europe. As such, the loss of their capital would in no way meant the end of the Soviet war effort, and for a megalomaniac like Stalin, no amount of defeats would mean he would concede the war.

Returning to the comparison of our two titles, I start with our positive example, “The New Order.” A short book could be written about the extensive lore of this mod but in broad strokes, this mod starts the game in 1962 after Nazi Germany lands a man on the Moon, beating the USA and Japan. Right from the start, the world is far more dynamic and realistic.

First of all, Germany never invaded the United States nor conquered it; the United States survived the war and founded the Organization of Free Nations, basically NATO, and welcomed the former British Commonwealth. Meanwhile, Germany has hegemony over Europe in an alliance called the Einheitspakt. Nominally, this includes a semi-independent France, a puppet Kingdom in England, Germany proper, and its colonies made out of Soviet Territory in the East. The German Colonies themselves are another small slice of realism, as the Nazi dream of German families settling and subduing the East Failed.

Instead, there is a near-ongoing partisan warfare, and the colonial governments burden the Reich with economic and material reliance. Speaking of the East, The Soviet Union collapsed and lost its territory east of the Arkhangelsk- Astrakhan Line and collapsed into a multitude of various warlord states ranging from burgeoning democracies, Nazi Aligned warlords, or

former soviet generals all fighting over the future of Russia. To the South of Germany, Italy under Mussolini split with Hitler and created his own faction with Turkey and a United Iberia for mutual protection in case of a Nazi invasion. All of this is barely scratching the surface of the sheer effort and love that went into crafting the world of “The New Order,” and it's all the more impressive considering it's a mod for a video game.

Now shifting to “The Man in the High Castle,” the world map is basically two blobs: a big Reich blob over Europe, Africa, North America, and part of South America, and a big Japan blob around the Pacific and into India. How does Germany or Japan even have the manpower to occupy all these territories? Who knows? Why aren't there constant rebellions all the time? I have no clue. Why did the Unites States surrender after getting nuked once? Why did Germany pursue nuclear weapons when Hitler mistrusted nuclear science out of antisemitism? What is life even like in the Reich?

There are no answers to these questions. There is so much information integral to making the world in “The Man in the High Castle” work that is ignored, skipped over or is incongruent. For a TV show with a budget of \$70 million, there is so much more that could have been done with the world building.



# The downside of announcing movies in advance

**By Shawn Carey**  
Asst. Opinion Editor

We live in an age of nonstop media consumption. There's constantly new movies, shows and games being released. Most of these projects, such as the superhero ones, were announced years in advance.

For example, July's "Fantastic Four: The First Steps" was first announced all the way back in 2019 at San Diego Comic Con, six years ago. We have known of this movie for half a decade.

So what gives? When and why did studios start to do this? Why is the existence of a movie public knowledge to the public before it even made it to the production stage?

These early announcements are a pretty recent phenomenon. Like with most entertainment trends we can tie it back to Marvel. Back in 2011 the studio announced "phase 2" of their cinematic universe, once again at San Diego Comic Con.

Marvel showcased the dates, titles, plot summaries of their next couple films. Everything from 2013 "Ironman 3" all the way to 2015 "Ant-Man." The studio did this to show the public that they had a grand plan for their cinematic universe that Marvel was going to be around for the years to come.

Soon after, other media giants decided to jump on the cinematic universe bandwagon. Warner Bros. and DC announced the DCEU, Lucasfilm announced a large list of Star Wars films and shows that would be releasing in the coming years, Sony created their own universe of Spider-man related characters.

While most of the projects announced were finished and released, there were a few outliers. DC had to cancel their Ben Affleck led Batman movie, Star Wars had to cut most of their TV shows, and so on. These connected universes were mostly successful. At least for a time.

Ever since the pandemic began, it seems like general audiences are becoming less and less interested in these joint projects. The last few DCEU

movies were box office bombs causing the studio to reboot the entire thing, Sony scrapped their universe entirely and Star Wars is no longer the cultural landmark it once was.

The MCU is seemingly the only connected universe still standing, and even then they've been running into problems. Mostly involving the characters of "Kang the Conqueror."

Kang was meant to be the universe's

movies usually serve as the big phase ending movies. They're framed as these huge cinematic experiences. Movies that are meant to get the whole world talking.

Kang didn't have the best introduction but perhaps there was still a chance to get the audience to care about him. All Marvel needed to do was release a project that showed him as a legitimate threat. Something that they never got to

One of Marvel's leading actors was now a criminal.

As you can imagine the studio panicked. The big event they've been building up to was now in trouble. They obviously couldn't use the actor, or even recast him. Marvel didn't even want to acknowledge the allegations.

So, what were they going to do?

Recast Robbie Downey Jr, their original frontman as a villain. Last year it was announced that RDJ would be playing fan favorite Marvel villain "Doctor Doom." This in turn made "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania" essentially meaningless. The movie no longer mattered.

While Marvel has had a handful of other problems within the past couple of years, such as not being able to find a director for Blade. Nothing beats the entire Kang situation.

So, what can studios do differently?

These early announcements are done to build hype. They want the audience to get excited for what's to come. They however, also lead to them being disappointed.

Imagine being a fan of a character. Let's use Ghost Rider as an example. Comic Con comes around and you're eagerly waiting for a movie announcement. It's time for the Marvel panel and instead of your favorite hero getting a movie, Marvel announces a fourth Thor movie. All you can do after is wait and hope for one next time, whenever that may be.

Nothing stays the same, you really can't plan a decade into the future. You honestly can't even really do a year. Sure, you can have a concept, but still you can't tell people to expect something.

As messy as the game's industry is, it at least seems like they know how to showcase a product.

Most games tend to get announced at most two years before release. While they are some exceptions, this seems to be the standard practice.

There's nothing wrong with getting viewers excited, you just have to figure out the proper course of action.



new big bad, following the widely popular Thanos. Played by Johathan Majors he first appeared in "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania." The movie was both a critical and financial failure, which proved to be rather unfortunate for the studio.

The villain was meant to headline "Avengers: The Kang Dynasty." For those who don't know, the Avengers

do.

On March 25, 2023, Jonathan Majors, the actor that was going to play Kang, was arrested in New York City and was later found guilty of one misdemeanor assault charge and one harassment violation after allegedly striking his girlfriend Grace Jabbari in the head with an open hand and breaking her middle finger by squeezing it.



# A review Nav's newest album "OMW2 REXDALE"

## *An analysis of performance, features, production, replayability*

**By Logan Colonna**

*Asst. Opinion Editor*

I'd like to start this by saying that I am not a NAV fan in the slightest. I never made time to get to know his music all that well besides the more famous songs from his catalog.

I know that most music fans are very one-sided regarding him though. You have the one side that is practically die-hard fans and enjoy just about anything that he released. Then, you have the other side that automatically says that the music is bad without even giving it a solid listen.

To find out which side I'm on, I'll be reviewing his new record, "OMW2 REXDALE." I'll take into account certain areas like the performance of NAV, the features he got together for this project, the production and the replayability of the album.

First, Nav did pretty decent on this record. My favorite song on this record was the intro, "SINKING." This is all because of his vocals on the track. I know very little about NAV, but I do know that he's not known for his lyrics. While they're not bad by any means, they're not something that is going to blow your mind. Because of that, I think he knows that his appeal is his voice. With that in mind, we get tracks like this that are more melodic than usual.

I also really enjoyed "U.N.I." quite a bit. Yet again, it's because of his vocals and his flow. As a whole, NAV is just a very melodic artist. Overall, NAV is honestly great performance wise.

As for the features on the record, there's only a couple. We have Don Toliver on "YOU" and Playboi Carti on "UNLIMITED."

As for Don's feature, he offers his typical cloudy vocals. What he does here isn't amazing by any means, but he creates a nice soundscape for the

music to exist in. He does a great job of keeping the same vibe that NAV set up in the beginning with his verse. Even the rapping he does throughout his verse is pretty good.

As for "UNLIMITED," it's practically Playboi Carti's song. He gets an intro,

"rock out," and I am just not in the mood for repetition like that as of late.

It's kind of funny that I'm now like this because when he first released "JumpOutTheHouse," I was in love with it. I bring this up because he repeats "jump out the house" 30 different times.

collaboration track with "legendary" producer Metro Boomin and NAV on "REAL ME." I say that with the quotes because with the way that Metro Boomin is anymore, I didn't expect anything amazing. With that, the instrumental on the track is alright at most. In my opinion, Metro Boomin has been declining shortly after his record in 2022, "HEROES & VILLAINS." Since then, he's just not hit the same sound that I loved from that record.

Overall, the production is good at most.

With the decency of the production bringing the record down, we have something that is better in comparison, the replayability. The record is fairly short coming in at 14 tracks and only 36 minutes.

Like I've said in the past, I enjoy records that are shorter since they're often times more cohesive as an album. The records that are over 30 songs (thanks Playboi Carti) are just unlistenable, front to back, when you want to listen for the fifth time or so. The record here also offers different sounds on each track, helping its credibility in the replayability department. Overall, I've enjoyed listening to the record front to back because of its great replayability.

As you can probably tell, NAV is decent this time around. I can't say that I'm much of a fan, or hater, at this point because I know that he definitely has some "meh" projects out there but I have to listen to them to really understand the people's hate. I do get that people may not get the appeal to NAV, and I think that's why he has so many haters.

With all of that being said, I think if you typically listen to NAV, you should give this record a try.

Regardless, NAV's "OMW2 REXDALE" gets a 6 out of 10.

Graphic by Carol Stratford



two verses, the pre-chorus, chorus and an outro. I get why this wasn't on his record "MUSIC" that just released since it wouldn't fit whatsoever, but I find it weird whenever artists get a feature and are heard more than the original artist. While this isn't a bad thing, it just irks me a bit. I thoroughly enjoyed Carti's verses, but I cannot bring myself to like the chorus. All it is is Carti repeating

Do not ask why.

Anyways, the features are both decent. Nothing too bad or too good here.

In regard to the production on the album, there's seriously no track that stands out to me positively or negatively. Each track is good, but that's about it.

"SINKING" and its production is solid, but again, it's nothing out of the ordinary. However, we do have a



# Sports

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

## Wilkes baseball hosts Landmark Series against Juniata

**By Andrew Marshallsay**  
Asst. News Editor

After winning their last four out of five in Landmark Conference play, the Wilkes baseball team was back in action at home for the first time since March 19.

The Colonels took on Juniata in a three game set that saw rain and wind affect the scheduling of games.

Wilkes came into the series on top of the Landmark Conference, while Juniata entered in last place in conference play.

Game one saw a pitchers' duel early on. Wilkes' A.J. Levandoski and Juniata's Braelan Huber were very efficient with their pitch counts early on.

Juniata took the lead in the top of the second inning when Levandoski made a throwing error on a pick-off attempt that went over the head of second baseman Jack Mathis. Later in the fourth inning, the Colonels grabbed their first run of the game to make it a 1-1 contest when left-fielder Matt Show brought third baseman Luke Spencer home on an RBI single to shallow center field.

The Colonels scored again in the fifth and sixth innings, making it a 3-1 game. Spencer picked up an RBI single to bring home Mathis, and Nate Loch drove in a run as well.

In the bottom of the eighth, the Colonels piled it on, scoring three more times to make it a 6-1 game. Levandoski went back out for the ninth inning and finished his complete game performance with a 10 strikeout, five hit performance. For Juniata Huber also struck out 10 batters in 4.2 innings of work, allowing two runs.

The first game of the doubleheader saw Zach Lloyd take the mound for the Colonels, while Hunter Thomas was given the ball to start for Juniata.

Lloyd started his afternoon by retiring the side in order with two strikeouts in the first inning. For Hunter Thomas, he walked in two runs to make it a 2-0 game in favor

of the Colonels as he just couldn't find his command early on.

Lloyd gave up a run in the top of the second, but the Colonels answered back, going on a 14-0 run. Loch had two triples and an RBI, Spencer had two RBIs, Jake Cambria had three and Jimmy Brazofsky drove in two runs.

Lloyd went six innings before being relieved by Kyle Rentschler who finished the top of the seventh. After the run rule went into effect, the game ended after seven innings with the Colonels taking a 16-2 win.

On the mound, Lloyd grabbed the win for the Colonels, while Thomas was given the loss.

Before game two of the doubleheader, the Colonels honored their 2025 senior class with Colby Butczynski, Spencer, Brazofsky, PJ Pisano, Zack Luksic, Mike Show, Chase Vrabel, and Caleb Graham taking part in the ceremony.

On the mound in the second game for the Colonels was Riley Jagger. His Juniata counterpart was Derek Gehr.

A scoreless first inning for Jagger saw him walk two batters and strikeout another. The Colonels took the lead in the bottom of the first after an error allowed Loch to score

from third. The Eagles tied things up when Ricky Scott drove in a run on an RBI double that almost cleared the fences but hit off the wall.

The Colonels made it a 4-1 game after the second inning, but the Eagles came back and made it a 4-4 contest in the third inning.

After a few scoreless innings for each side's bullpens, Vrabel fired a double to left field to bring in two runs to make it a 6-4 ballgame in favor of the Colonels.

After coming in from the bullpen in the fifth inning, Ethan Grodack pitched four scoreless innings, surrendering two hits and striking out four batters. He threw just 47 pitches in his first four innings of work, staying efficient throughout his outing.

Caleb Graham came into the game from the bullpen in the top of the ninth to close things out, and had some trouble, allowing a run before being taken out of the game. After Juniata came up with runners on second and third, Hunter Lawall came into the game for Wilkes.

Lawall surrendered an infield hit which brought in the tying run, which was credited to Graham. After sending the two batters he faced down on a flyout and strikeout, Lawall took the Colonels to the bottom of the ninth

with the chance to win it in walk-off fashion.

The Colonels had the winning run at third but were unable to convert, sending the game to extra innings. Lawall sent Juniata down in order in the top of the tenth, giving the Colonels the opportunity to win it with just one run needed. That run came when Cambria was the hero, driving in a run with a hit to shallow centerfield to bring Loch home.

The Colonels completed the sweep of the series with a 7-6 extra innings win. Lawall recorded the win, with Juniata's Connor Blough grabbing the loss in extras.

After the series, the Colonels improved to 18-8 on the season, with an 11-3 record in the Landmark, to keep them atop of the standings in conference play.

Next up on the schedule for the Colonels is a game against Lycoming College on April 9 at 6 p.m. from Bruggeworth Field

After that, the Colonels are back on the road on April 12 and 13 when they take on Moravian University in a three game series in Landmark Conference play.

For more about Colonel Baseball and all Wilkes Athletics, visit [gowilkesu.com](http://gowilkesu.com).

Photo by Wilkes Athletics



Wilkes Baseball seniors celebrate their last home games with the team during double-header against Juniata.



# Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins look to bounce back this week

## Game recaps, the week ahead, news and notes

**By Adam Grundt**  
Asst. Sports Editor

After two games against a tough opponent, the Cleveland Monsters, the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins look to make a final push for a first-round bye in the Calder Cup Playoffs.

The Penguins have already clinched a spot in the 2024-25 postseason, but are looking to solidify themselves in one of the top three spots in the Atlantic Division in order to clinch a first-round bye.

After this weekend's games, Wilkes-Barre/Scranton sits in third place, just one point ahead of the fourth-place Providence Bruins. They are two points behind Charlotte, who is in second place, and five behind the two-time defending Calder Cup Champions, the Hershey Bears.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 4 - Penguins 1 - Cleveland 7**

The Penguins offense was drubbed by the Monsters on Friday, as the team was outplayed at Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse in Cleveland.

Roman Ahcan tallied the first goal of the game for Cleveland during the first period, and then the Monsters rattled off three goals to take a 4-0 lead into the third period. Mikael Pyyhtiä, Ahcan, and Guillaume Richard scored for the Monsters during the middle frame.

Five minutes into the third, Cleveland extended their lead to 5-0 with a goal from James Malatesta. Vasily Ponomarev tallied the only goal for Wilkes-Barre/Scranton, his 15th of the season.

Luca Del Bel Belluz scored Cleveland's sixth of the night with three minutes remaining in the third, and Ahcan completed the hat trick with his third of the night with a minute left.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5 - Penguins 0 - Cleveland 3**

Another stellar performance from Cleveland's defense and netminder Jet Greaves was in store on Saturday

night as the Monsters rebranded as the Cleveland Pierogies.

Cleveland kicked off the scoring 36 seconds into the game with a goal from Hunter McKown. Just over six minutes into the game, McKown struck again to put the Pierogies ahead by 2.

The two-goal Cleveland lead carried all the way into the third period, until former University of Michigan Wolverine, Gavin Brindley, concluded the night's scoring at 13:35 of the final stanza.

Penguins' rookie netminder Sergei Murashov stopped 21 of 24 shots in net.

**THE WEEK AHEAD**

The Penguins do not play a game until April 11, when they return home to Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza for a grudge match with a bitter rival, the Hershey Bears. As previously stated, the two teams are separated by five points in the standings as of April 5. Penguins' defenseman Filip Král leads all active

skaters with 11 points (3G - 8A) in the season series thus far through 10 games.

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton returns to home ice the following night for their annual community night rebranding, presented by Visit Luzerne County. The Penguins are rebranding to the Carbondale UFOs, an ode to the alien spacecraft's alleged crash during the 1970's in the Lackawanna County town. In addition, the first 2,000 fans to arrive at Mohegan Arena at Casey Plaza will receive a Joel Blomqvist bobblehead. The team faces off against the Springfield Thunderbirds, and puck drop is slated for 7:05 p.m.

**NEWS AND NOTES**

The Penguins are without two of their leading point producers until the end of the regular season. Rookie sensations Ville Koivunen and Rutger McGroarty were recalled to Pittsburgh, and Koivunen made his NHL debut on March 30, a 1-0 win against the Ottawa

Senators. Koivunen's family made the trip from Finland to Pittsburgh and were in attendance at the game.

McGroarty collected his first NHL point, an assist on a goal from Bryan Rust in Thursday's game against the St. Louis Blues.

Later in the game, Koivunen tallied his first NHL point with an assist on McGroarty's first NHL goal, a marker that tied the game late in the third period. The two rookies were pictured postgame with the puck from McGroarty's goal and Koivunen's point.

If the Pittsburgh Penguins are to become eliminated from playoff contention, reinforcements will most likely be on the way. Koivunen and McGroarty will likely return to Northeastern Pennsylvania, and Tristan Jarry is eligible to return to the team as well for the Calder Cup Playoffs.

For more information on the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, visit [wbspenguins.com](http://wbspenguins.com).

**SCHEDULE & TICKETS**

A P R _ 2 5						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4 CLE 7:00	5 CLE 7:00
6	7	8	9	10	11 HER 7:05	12 SPR 6:05
13 BRI 3:00	14	15	16 PRO 7:05	17	18 HER 7:00	19 CLE 6:05

HOME	AWAY
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# MLAX: Wilkes drops back-to-back in conference play

By Ava Tureen and Zach Paraway  
Contributing Writers

The Wilkes Men's Lacrosse team just finished up their last week, having played two games. They hosted Drew University on April 2 and traveled to Goucher College on April 5.

The team came into last week with a 4-7 overall record and a 1-2 record within Landmark Conference play. The previous week was a successful one for the team as they went 2-0 for the week with wins against Mount Saint Mary College and Juniata College, both on the road.

The Colonels were unable to make a comeback on Wednesday against Drew after a difficult first quarter, in which the Rangers scored nine points and held the Colonels scoreless. The final score for the night was 16-4.

Wilkes had five turnovers during the

first quarter, and First-Year midfielder Stone Sosnovik had one shot on goal that was saved by Joe Barnish.

At the beginning of the second, the Rangers switched their goalie to Sawyer Kennedy. The Colonels had nine shots on goal, and Jackson Casper scored the first point for Wilkes after picking up a ground ball and getting the shot off. That would be their only goal before half, while Drew went scoreless in the quarter.

Drew opened the second half scoring with a goal from attackman Riley Zeer and was assisted by Tommy Larmore. The Colonels were quick to answer with a goal from Casper and the assist coming from Sr. midfielder Anthony DelDuca.

First-Year attackman Oscar Cline was a player to watch during this game with one goal, three ground balls, and three shots on goal.

Wilkes gave it all in the fourth quarter and scored two more times. Cline scored the third goal of the game for Wilkes, followed by Sosnovik scoring the final goal of the game. Both of these goals were assisted by So. midfielder Austin Sosnovik. During the final quarter, Drew scored 2 more points, giving them a total of 16 points for the win.

Junior attackman Tim Hartka had even shots, and Casper scored two goals. Austin Sosnovik had two assists and picked up a team-high of six ground balls along with Brandon Cooke.

Junior goalkeeper Caleb Miller was in goal for Wilkes and had 17 saves in the game. Miller has played all 13 games so far this season with a record of four wins and nine losses.

In the econd game of the week, the team traveled to Baltimore, Maryland to take on the Goucher University Gophers. Goucher,

which was 6-5 coming into this game, was able to pick up their first conference win in the match. Goucher was able to take an advantage early in the game, making the deficit 7-0 after the first quarter and 15-0 by the half. Nine points in the second half made the final score 24-0 in favor of Goucher.

Standout performances for Goucher include attackmen Gianni Karam with seven goals and Jacob Morgan with 11 points between four goals and seven assists. For Wilkes, Miller had 18 saves and three players; defensemen Mac Jackson, Owen Peters, and Caleb Edwards each had 4 ground balls, leading the team.

The Colonels have four games left in their regular season, with the next game home against Lycoming College at 7 p.m.

For more about Colonel Lacrosse and all Wilkes Athletics, visit [gowilkesu.com](http://gowilkesu.com).

## 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) - SELINGSGROVE, 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



# Athlete of the Week

## Ally Stafursky

### First-Year, Catcher/Outfielder, Women's Softball

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

Stafursky went 6 for 14 at bat with a home run, three RBI, a walk, and two runs scored to help the Colonels with their first Landmark Conference win of the season against Drew University and non-conference game against Immaculate University.

**Major:** Nursing  
**Hometown:** Eynon, Pa

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

My favorite sports memory as a Colonel is hitting my first collegiate homerun and seeing my teammates celebrating it with me.

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

Philadelphia Phillies

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

Spending time with friends

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

I'm able to balance academics, play the sport I grew up with, and I enjoy the atmosphere of the community.

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

"The Benchwarmers" or "A League of Their Own"

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

Tennis

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

Winning back-to-back District Championships my junior and senior year of high school.

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

Taco Bell

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

Being named Athlete of the Week is an incredible honor. None of this would be possible without my teammates and coaches who push me to get 1% better everyday.



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."

Compiled by Samantha Mullen, Asst. Sports Editor



# Athlete of the Week

## Nathan Loch

Sophomore, Shortstop, Men's Baseball

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

Loch went 9 for 22 at bat with eight RBIs, three doubles, a triple, three stolen bases, and six runs during the Colonels Landmark Conference wins over Elizabethtown College, Penn State Harrisburg and Drew University.

### **Major: Financial Investments**

Hometown: Effort, PA

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

The spring trips down to Florida.

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

New York Yankees

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

Hanging with friends and family

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

The strong bond within the team

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

"The Blindside"

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

Golf

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

Winning the championship in summer ball a couple of years ago.

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

Bacon cheeseburger

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

I feel really honored to be selected as Athlete of the Week. It's a great recognition, but I couldn't have done it without my teammates and coaches.



*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."*



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