

THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

The news of today reported by the journalists of tomorrow.

APKCFEE provides services to local businesses

By Sara Ross
Co-News Editor

Starting this spring, the Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship has established an initiative with Diamond City Partnership to provide two Wilkes-Barre businesses, Abide Coffeehouse and restaurant Bank+Vine, with its services and expertise.

Since 1993, the APKCFEE has been part of the Wilkes University community, providing hands-on learning opportunities to its scholars and interns with both external and internal clients. Charles Pierce has been the interim director of the Kirby Scholar Program since 2015 and shared how the communication for this project began with the DCP's Executive Director Larry Newman.

"Late last fall, Larry approached Mike Wood, special assistant to Wilkes University's president, about how to get students from Wilkes to work on a special project to market the downtown to college students," said Pierce.

Wood referred Newman to Evan Stolicker, the center's graduate assistant. He quickly began working with Medina Saeed, the DCP's marketing intern, to form a student advisory board to make the idea a reality.

Newman highlighted that one of the DCP's goals is to position Downtown Wilkes-Barre as the region's college neighborhood.



The Beacon/Sara Ross

The Allan P. Kirby Center for Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship is located on Wilkes University's campus at 65 W. South St. in Wilkes-Barre.

"Wilkes University and King's College are among our downtown's most important anchors," said Newman. "They bookend either side of Public Square and bring almost 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students to downtown each semester."

Since its early stages, Stolicker has taken the reins of the project by collaborating with Saeed. He elaborates on the program and how it will be beneficial throughout

APKCFEE, page 3

MBB: Colonels fall in back-to-back contests against DeSales

By Ariel Reed
Sports Editor

WILKES-BARRE -- The Colonels kicked off their season with back-to-back losses, 99-55 and 77-43, on Thursday and Friday against MAC Freedom foe, DeSales.

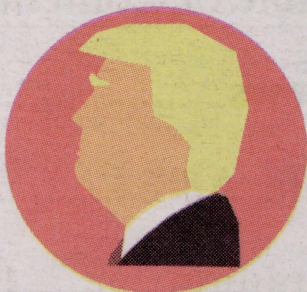
Unlike past seasons, this abbreviated 2021 season gave players less time to prepare in training camp as well as a start that was delayed around three months.

"We had limited preparation coming in the first two games. I feel like it was good to get on the court and kind of feel it out," Wilkes guard Sean Collier said. "But now that we have the first two games under our belt, we just need to play more physically, work the ball a little more, trust each other more and just keep grinding the process."

On top of entering the season with less time to prepare, Wilkes is without its top two scorers from last season, Rob Pecorelli and Mark Mullins.

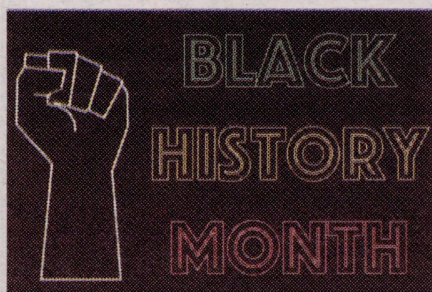
The two Wilkes standouts graduated last year, putting a big hit on the Colonel offense. Both Pecorelli and Mullins have left big shoes to fill for the remaining Colonels and the first-year players.

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The Beacon/Anna Culver

Partisanship emerges as focal point in second impeachment, page 4



The Beacon/Anna Culver

Wilkes students and faculty celebrate Black History Month, page 7



The Beacon/Mia Walker

A look at the first weeks of Biden's presidency: A good start?, page 15



The Beacon/Kirsten

MIH: Wilkes prepares to avenge championship loss to Utica in season opener, pages 12 & 13

News

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

Student Government: Feb. 10 weekly meeting notes

By Maddy Kinard
News Staff Writer

On Feb. 10, Student Government held its second virtual meeting. The council voted on three budget requests: Casino Night, Random Acts of Kindness Week and the Leadership Speaker Series event with Baratunde Thurston.

First, Student Government Executive Treasurer Ben Wojciechowski re-presented the Casino Night budget request with a few updates. To allow for more time to prepare for the event and to advertise more to students, Casino Night will now run from Feb. 22 to 26. The total budget request remains anywhere from \$14,200 to \$22,000, depending upon the size package the committee goes with.

Wojciechowski opened the floor for

discussions and a suggestion to save money was brought up that it may be beneficial to send out a poll to see how many students will potentially attend the virtual event. That way, it allows the committee to see what size packages they need to buy from the online entertainment service, instead of estimating student participation based on past years.

A motion was approved for the full budget of \$20,000, and the vote passed with all in favor.

Next, Student Government President Kevin Long gave a short presentation on Random Acts of Kindness Week with all the compiled ideas from the previous meeting. With a budget range

from \$1,000 to \$3,000, Student Government discussed handing out encouragement goody bags, hanging up sticky notes with words of encouragement or choosing to do a prepaid P.O.D. Market gift. Through the prepaid P.O.D. Market, students who purchased anything would be covered with the allocated money until it ran out.

The council engaged in discussion, primarily trying to find a plan that could include the students who are doing classes remotely. In a final agreement, a motion was passed to allocate the full amount but to split it so that 75 percent of the money went to students who were on campus (by giving

money to the P.O.D., gift bags, etc.) and 25 percent went to online students (by potentially sending something through email).

In the Fall 2020 semester, Student Government voted on bringing Thurston to campus as a speaker. This week, the council voted again to allocate \$3,250 to go toward the total \$15,000 it costs to bring Thurston to campus. The total was broken up between Student Development, Student Government, Programming Board and the other mega councils, based on how much money each council was allocated. A motion was made to allocate the full amount, and the vote passed with all in favor.



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Beacon Briefs: Upcoming happenings on campus

Compiled by Sara Ross

English Department Welcomes Zach Linge

The Wilkes University English Department opens the Allan Hamilton Dickson Fund Spring Writers Series with poet Zach Linge.

Linge will appear via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Feb. 17 to read from his work and discuss the creative process. The reading is free and open to the public.

Linge's poems have appeared in AGNI, Best New Poets 2020, New England Review and Poetry. They even had an article published in an edition of African American Review. Linge is the recipient of scholarships to the Kenyon

Review Writers Workshop and the Sewanee Writers' Conference. In Tallahassee, Fla., they serve as editor-in-chief of the Southeast Review.

Women's and Gender Studies Conference Seeks Proposals

Proposals are now being accepted for the 2021 Wilkes University and King's College Women's and Gender Studies Conference.

This year's theme is "Women in the Public Sphere: Stepping Forward." Proposals are due by March 5 and may be submitted online. Students, faculty, staff and community members are invited to participate.

Session types include research presentations,

panel discussions and performance art. For more information or questions about the conference, contact Dr. Jennifer Thomas, director of women's and gender studies, at jennifer.thomas@wilkes.edu.

Colonel's Closet Spring Semester Hours

Starting out the spring semester, the Colonel's Closet has been stocked and available for any student, staff or faculty member who may need some assistance with fulfilling basic needs. There are a number of food, personal hygiene and household items that can be taken free of charge.

Anyone is welcome to walk-in from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday through Friday.

However, people are also able to submit orders online, which are filled within at least 48 hours and can be picked up at the Information Desk in the Henry Student Center.

Students can contact kristin.osipower@wilkes.edu with any questions.

Students are Invited to the IMPACT Conference

Join the Wilkes team of Civic Engagement and LEAP-Alternative Break students at the virtual IMPACT conference from March 4 to 6. Message megan.boone@wilkes.edu for registration information.

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Upcoming Events: Spring 2021 Semester

February
17 – Writers Series: Poet Zach Linge
17 – Virtual Concert Series with Young M.A.
15-19 – Random Acts of Kindness Week
18 – Forum on Race and the Curriculum
19 – Submissions for Manuscript Black Lives Matter Issue Due
22 – Hollis Dissertation Defense
23-24 – MLK Day Celebration
24 – Virtual Concert Series with SNL Comedian
25 – Baratunde Thurston Lecture

March
3 – Virtual Concert Series with Country Music Duo
5 – Proposals due for Women's & Gender

Studies Conference
4-6 – IMPACT Conference
10 – Heather Sincavage Lecture
24 – Martha Posner and Amy Arbus Lecture

April
6 – Karley Stasko's Create Your Own Macrame Plant Holder Event

May
15-22 – Final Exam Period

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

Building Hours

Administrative Buildings
Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Most Academic and Auxiliary Buildings
Monday-Friday: 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Saturday-Sunday: 12 to 5 p.m.

Marts Center
Monday-Friday: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sunday: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Farley Library
Monday-Thursday: 7:45 a.m. to 12 a.m.
Friday: 7:45 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sunday: 11 a.m. to 12 a.m.

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APKCFEE, from front

both the campus and the community.

“The Downtown Wilkes-Barre Business Assistance Program was created to help bridge the gap between Wilkes students and local businesses,” said Stolicker. “Through this initiative, we have been able to create experiential learning opportunities for our scholars and drive student involvement and interest downtown.”

The DCP plays a vital role in the area as well. Newman and Saeed describe the non-profit organization as the “caretakers of the community’s vision for Downtown Wilkes-Barre.”

“The whole purpose of the organization is to help water the flowers of the community,” said Saeed. “We want to be there as a resource for the businesses and the people to ensure that they thrive.”

DCP seeks to boost the area’s economy through supporting local businesses. That mission is fulfilled through an array of services, including cleaning and beautification, marketing and promotion as well as business recruitment and planning. DCP promotes the city’s parks, educational institutions, arts and culture, recreational opportunities, small businesses and historic sites.

The APKCFEE’s Executive Director Gerald Ephault, along with Pierce, claim that small

business can be attributed the designation of “backbone of the economy.”

“In this area, Wilkes-Barre is definitely a great place for small businesses,” said Pierce. “It has been for many years. Wilkes-Barre is centrally located between the larger cities of Scranton and Hazleton, and all have exceptional small businesses of all types.”

Saeed and Stolicker created the initial contact list for business owners to apply for this initiative. Businesses listed areas they needed to improve and were chosen by the through an application process.

When Abide and Bank+Vine were selected, Ephault began drawing up engagement letters and confidentiality agreements with Stolicker. Ephault detailed the services the scholars and interns can provide.

“Every member of the team will draw on their academic training as well as the extent of professional experience in their subject domain, including logo design, SEO, financial analysis, communications and promotional marketing materials. The scholars and interns determine what tasks to accomplish within a three-month timeline. These details are then documented,” explained Ephault.

Lafe Isaacson, the owner of Abide Coffeehouse, is looking forward to this opportunity to work with the scholars at the center and to progress his business. Abide has had its location in Wilkes-Barre for two years, and it prides itself in producing

modern, high-end coffee in Luzerne County at a reasonable price.

Isaacson was encouraged by the DCP to sign-up for the program. During the final weeks of January, Stolicker contacted Isaacson to learn more about what types of assistance he was searching for with Abide.

“As a company, I would like to improve our customer reach to get to know more locals and serve them,” said Isaacson. “My main goal is to gain traction on our newly renovated website, such as with SEO. I would also like to improve on business administration and effective workflow.”

Bringing city vibes to a casual fine dining setting, Bank+Vine has been open since August 2020. Bank+Vine’s General Manager Erin Crofchick touched on her vision plan, as well, and is hoping to learn tips to gain further visibility to students through social media.

“I had a wonderful first meeting (with the center), as they took the time to learn about our restaurant and what was important for us to gain from this experience,” Crofchick said. The team is passionate and eager to partner together to build downtown businesses, and we are so lucky to have the opportunity to be part of this.”


Both of these businesses have offers for college students and encourage them to stop by. Bank+Vine is currently offering a 10 percent discount to Wilkes students and to

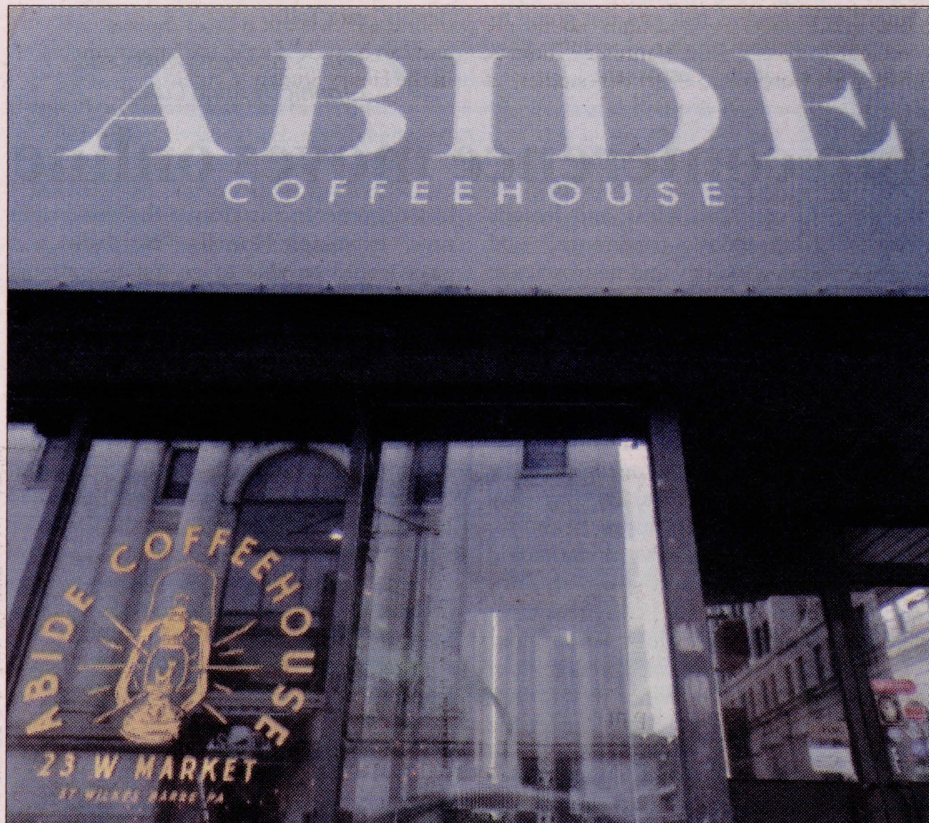
those who have been serving in the medical field in the pandemic. Abide often posts giveaways on their social media accounts, as well.

The APKCFEE believes this program will be a starting point for future collaboration with local Wilkes-Barre businesses, as it will foster positive relations with the community. The goal is to make those businesses more resilient in the long run while attuning them to the college market.

According to Ephault, reward comes in the knowledge that the center has provided aid to furthering the competitive position of a business, sustaining employment to community members, creating wealth, generating economic benefit to the larger community and knowing that the Kirby scholars and interns have had an opportunity to master their skills.

“It has been rewarding to see such a great response to the first rendition of this program,” said Stolicker, who echoed Ephault’s sentiments. “We hope to work with new businesses each semester and do our part in giving back to the community. We will be continuing to collaborate with the DCP and their efforts in growing the interest for students to choose to shop and buy locally right here in Downtown Wilkes-Barre.”

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Photos: The Beacon/Sara Ross

Open since 2019 at 23 W. Market St., Abide Coffeeshouse produces modern, high-end coffee at a reasonable price. Bank+Vine, located on 268 S. Main St., is known for its casual fine dining experience and opened during the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic in August 2020. Both businesses are a walkable distance for Wilkes students.

Trump Acquitted: Partisanship focal point in impeachment

By Sean Schmoyer
Co-News Editor

This past week, the Senate held its impeachment trial in an attempt to convict former President Donald Trump for inciting the Capitol riots on Jan. 6. The end goal of the House Managers, who led the prosecution team, was a vote to prevent Trump from running for office again.

The vote to convict Trump resulted in an acquittal, 57 to 43, failing to reach a two-thirds majority vote.

On Feb. 9, the Senate first voted on whether the trial itself was constitutional, one of the main arguments of Trump's defense team. The vote required a simple majority of 51 votes, with the Senate being composed of 48 Democrats, two Independents and 50 Republicans. News outlets, such as NPR and the Associated Press, quickly framed the trial as a partisan one.

"I think if anything, the broad takeaway from what the outcome will be is the strength of partisanship in today's environment, where it is virtually impossible for the founder's desire of separation of powers to exist," explained Dr. Benjamin Toll, professor of political science.

The vote that the trial was constitutional went through 56 to 44, but to convict Trump, the Senate needed a two-thirds majority vote, requiring at least 17 Republican Senators to

vote with the full count of Democrats and Independents.

Feb. 10 and 11 saw the House Managers, composed entirely of Democrats, make their case that Trump was the sole cause for the Capitol riots.

"After hearing the results of the acquittal, I was disheartened and upset that justice hasn't been served," said Priscilla Thomas, junior biology major. "We have seen time and time again that people who have worked for Trump have been put in harm's way, specifically the Capitol Hill riots."

The vote to stop Trump from running again in future elections no longer became a possibility on the afternoon of Feb. 13.

"With the trial over with yet another acquittal, the consequences of making politics a spectator sport have never been clearer. The actual question of legality has been so completely lost in rhetoric and anger that any kind of middle ground seems far off and nearly impossible," said junior Dean Bowen. "As a student of political science, watching the trial tied to this event has been exhausting. There is a unique stress associated with watching your field become a battleground. However, despite this, I have hope. With proper work,

this situation too can be amended, and a future can be forged. It comes down to finding a commonality beyond rhetoric, and a place of agreement that doesn't rely on arbitrary boundaries."

A large focus of the trial was Trump's wording in his speech the day of the riots, including, "We fight like hell and if you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore," Trump said.

The defense for the president spent its time on Feb. 12 attempting to draw attention to Democrats who have used the word 'fight' in similar ways, a strategy known as whataboutism.

Trump attorney Michael van der Veen told the Senate, "The inflammatory language from both sides of the aisle has been alarming, frankly, but this political discourse must be considered as part of these proceedings to contextualize Mr. Trump's words."

Rep. Joaquin Castro, D-Texas, and one of the House Managers argued that the context such rhetoric is used in matters.

"When people are armed, and they're saying they're mad as hell and not going to take it anymore (that produces) an incredibly combustible situation," Castro said.

The defense also continued to focus on protection by the first amendment.

"The argument is that President Trump should not face criminal liability for Jan. 6," said Toll. "That would be a good argument to make if the Department of Justice were to try to trial him for this behavior, but impeachment is not a criminal case and this trial is not a criminal case, so the protection of free speech is not there for this case."

The other argument the defense team made was that the indictment itself was unconstitutional, an issue that was resolved on the first day by the simple majority vote. With much of the defense team's arguments being resolved or lacking ground in an impeachment trial, the main focus of the trial settled on partisanship and whataboutism.

The bigger picture is that this trial can serve as a reflection of the United States' current political system and as an important event in history that may shape young minds.

"It is going to be interesting for the cohort of people who are coming of age right now. This era will remind them in a lot ways like 9/11 reminds someone like me ... This will be a formative experience for most of those people who are in college right now. It will be something you think of as being an important piece of who you are and your political identity," said Toll.



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Graphic by Anna Culver



Student Development's leadership conference moves online

By Anna Culver
Staff Writer

On Feb. 13, Student Development hosted a virtual leadership conference, attended by Wilkes students and students from local high schools and colleges.

"We hosted the first leadership conference two years ago, and we decided that it did not necessarily need to be an annual conference," said Melissa Howells, the director of student development. "That being said, I decided to move forward with it because of the convenient virtual world that we are living in now – that we can host something, and keep some things somewhat normal."

This year's keynote speaker was Wilkes alumna Dr. Katie P. Desiderio. Desiderio earned her bachelor's of business administration and her master's of business administration degrees from Wilkes University. Desiderio presented her topic, "Jenga: To the Moon," where she discussed the importance of continuing to

build not only on your leadership skills but on communication with your teams. She focused on finding one's passions and what fuels one to avoid burnout. Students had the opportunity to ask questions about her leadership style and continue learning more about their leadership style.

"I attended the conference to expand on my leadership skills and gain beneficial experiences that I can take with me into any situation," said Logan Biechy, a senior psychology major. "From attending the conference, I gained a new understanding of the diverse relationships in the workforce. Not everyone communicates or perceives things in the same way, and there were plenty of discussions on how to work with everyone around you to create a better environment."

Students had the chance to participate in breakout sessions on leadership topics like emotional intelligence, professional etiquette, language in a workplace environment, leading through crisis, how to 'flop' and much more.

"There are countless ideas and lessons I learned from today's conference," said Jason DeBoard, a biology and neuroscience major. "What I found most applicable to me moving forward was Dr. Georgia Costalas' presentation about appreciation in leadership and in life. I always understood that I didn't appreciate things like most people around me, but Dr. Costalas really put it into tangible concepts on the different styles that each person may have in receiving and giving appreciation for any act. With Dr. Costalas' wisdom, I could now begin to understand the way to show my appreciation more accurately and more meaningfully in my everyday relationships."

Each breakout session was about an hour long. Students had the chance to talk with professionals and peers about leadership experiences.

"I thought in order to provide some sort of experience, let's do this because we can turn it virtual and still keep the content and the quality we normally would in-person as well – that and there is such a

lack of conferencing around the world right now," explained Howells. "Normally, you guys would be able to go out to national conferences across the country within your field or whatever topic you decided to choose. Because there are not as many options, I thought why not bring in an opportunity to Wilkes."

Unfortunately, registration this year was down as many students are suffering from Zoom fatigue, but if students are interested in listening to the sessions, they will be available. Student Development members recorded each session and are planning to archive them so students can access them later in the semester.

"I recognize the importance of in-person interaction," said Howells. "So, even if we do a hybrid model, I feel like Zoom is not really going to go away once we are back to normal, but I think if we have students that can be in the classroom even interacting with a live Zoom session."



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Casino week preview: Safety prioritized over budget

By Maddy Kinard
News Staff Writer

From Feb. 22 to 26, Wilkes will hold its first completely virtual Casino Night made up of online events that will be similar to how it has run in past years with some minor differences.

Most of the events, with possible exclusions of trivia and bingo to run through Student Government, will be held through a third party vendor, Record-A-Hit Entertainment, which offers virtual alternatives for Casino Night games.

To start out the week, Monday is looking to be a trivia night, but plans are still yet to be solidified.

Tuesday will be a Texas Hold 'Em Tournament at 6 p.m. through the third-party vendor. The event will run for two hours, and prizes will include gift cards from \$15 to \$150. For a two-hour virtual poker tournament, it will cost \$1,700 for 36 players, \$2,100 for 50 players and \$3,200 for 100 players.

Wednesday will be a Bingo Night at 8 p.m. and will run for an hour. Prizes include 12

\$25 gift cards. If held through Record-A-Hit Entertainment, it would cost \$550 for 300 players and \$750 for 500 players. However, it has been discussed that the event could be held through a Wilkes University Zoom to save money.

Thursday will be left open to accommodate Programming Board.

Finally, Friday will be Casino Night starting at 6 p.m. and again, held through Record-A-Hit Entertainment. Available games/tables include Blackjack, Roulette, Craps and a Money Wheel.

The webpage will cost \$1,400, and playing positions would cost \$1,800 for 50 to 125 players and \$3,500 for 126 to 200 players. Prizes will be similar to past years and handed out at the end of the event due to how early the event is beginning.

It is still unknown how the raffle system will work, but converting the chips students win from games into raffle

tickets is a possibility, which would then be entered to win prizes.

"We, unfortunately, are not saving any money with the event being held through a vendor instead of student/faculty volunteers; however, this was the only way that I could find to hold the event that would be safe for students and faculty," said Student Government Executive Treasurer Ben Wojciechowski. "We are working on ways to cut the cost of the event, but I believe that this extra cost was necessary to protect the campus community."

In a cost breakdown, prizes are projected to cost around \$8,500. There is an incidental cost of \$250, and the compiled events are looking to cost anywhere from \$5,450 to \$11,250. In total, Casino Week may cost \$14,200 at a minimum or \$20,000 at a maximum.


Compared to past years, this is a jump in price. Fall Casino Week of 2019 was around \$10,857.10. Prioritizing campus safety means

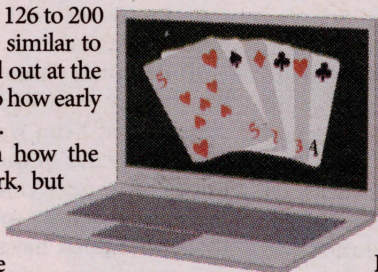
making accommodations for campus events, but it also raises the question of how many students will attend now that it is virtual.

"My one concern would be that due to the amount of online coursework and format many classes are in, we will see a slight decrease in attendance due to 'Zoom fatigue,'" said Student Government President Kevin Long. "However, I believe this impact will be small, and the turnout will be great."

Junior nursing major Alexa Crossgrove agrees that student turnout will still be high as in past years.

"With Casino Night being virtual this year, my roommates and I are still planning to participate," said Crossgrove. "We are going to decorate our room and have a bunch of snacks and music while participating in the events. It's a bummer that with COVID restrictions we won't be able to have people over, but I am sure others will do their own Casino Night and try to make the best of it."

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Graphic by Judah Lyles



Martha Posner talks beauty and brutality in her work

By Sean Schmoyer
Co-News Editor

The newest exhibit in the Sordoni Art Gallery, "Brutal Beauty: The Transformation of Women through Mythology," is composed entirely of the work of Martha Posner.

Posner is a sculptor and mixed media artist who lives on a farm in Martins Creek, Pa. She takes inspiration from the 250 acres of surrounding forest, fairy tales and mythology and her many barnyard creatures.

In the first of two lectures planned with Posner, the SAG hosted a Zoom call that allowed campus and community members to attend, ask questions and give comments in relation to Posner and her work.

As a notice, Posner's work does focus on themes of abuse and violence against women and children, and imagery in her work does contain nudity. Her work was inspired from and to provide perspective to those unable to speak on their own, such as her work during the #MeToo Movement.

"You'll see that there are lots of things with wings and fairy tales and mythology – I am very interested in the stories," said Posner. "Women and girls are treated poorly in these stories because their fathers want them to do something they are incapable of, or they don't listen to their fathers. My 'The Miller's Daughter' talks about the concept of female beauty."

"Memory of Flight," is featured in the gallery alongside a photo of Posner's "The Miller's

Daughter," which was inspired by the tale of a father who boasts to a king that his daughter can turn straw into gold; however, this only causes conflict for the daughter. The photo was taken by her husband Larry Fink.

"Mercy" is another collection in Posner's work.

"There are four figures," said Posner of the series.

"They are all young girls who are maturing a little bit early. They are starting to bleed, and all of these pieces are turning into something else. (One of these) is a girl who is turning into a deer. The idea of turning into something or an in-between place of being human or part of nature, or human and part beast are things very consistent in my work."

In addition to the lecture, Director of the SAG and curator of the exhibit Heather Sincavage announced that herself, Posner and SAG Outreach Coordinator Karley Stasko had produced a podcast or 'artcast' together titled, "Gallery Guide," which is available on Spotify, Acast, Apple Podcasts and Amazon Music.

"This has been a project I've been working on for about a year and a half," said Sincavage. "Martha is a very involved and collaborative artist. She has strong ideas but also wants to

hear yours, which truly made the curatorial process somewhat invigorating. When you work on a curatorial project, it is not unheard of to speak to the artist on a daily basis for months on end. That was true with Martha, which made my job in interpreting her work exciting and invigorating."

Cienna Tohme, a senior graphic design student, and Zoey Rosensweet, a junior digital design and media art major, both had visited the gallery and attended Posner's lecture.

"When I visited the gallery, her work made me feel as if I were in the most artistic horror film, and I mean that as a compliment," said Tohme. "I initially got this feeling of eeriness. After listening to Posner talk, I feel like I viewed her work in more of a meaningful way, considering a lot of her pieces have a certain purpose/theme, which were all truly beautiful expressions."

Rosensweet said, "When I first saw the exhibit, I was both amazed and overwhelmed. The topics that Martha confronted through her artwork (and during the lecture) are heavy, but she was able to bring them to the forefront of discussion in an appropriate way.


"After listening to Martha talk about her piece 'Mercy,' I was able to make a better connection between the innocence of these beast-like child figures and their fertility and growth. The explanation of her work didn't particularly change the way I viewed it, but it helped me understand how these topics can be portrayed through any medium."

Posner is set to return on March 24 when she joins photographer Amy Arbus to discuss their cooperation during the #MeToo Movement. Arbus used her expertise in photography to produce photos of women wearing Posner's handwritten garments, which can be seen in the gallery.

"I think Martha's work has many entry points," said Sincavage. "The first you experience it in real life, one definitely has an almost guttural reaction. It's unsettling. But as you look over the imagery, one can relate their experiences to clothing, to folklore, to material and it establishes a deeper appreciation for her work. It is both a very personal narrative and universal to those who have experienced trauma."

Sincavage will also be presenting a lecture on March 10, titled, "From Silence to a Scream," in which she will focus on the visual representation of women's trauma.

For information about the SAG's hours and an overview of the gallery itself, students can checkout page nine.

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Courtesy of Larry Fink

"Beast Coat" features Posner in her sculpted outfit.

Wilkes-Barre cannot run on Dunkin' Donuts anymore

By Genny Frederick
Asst. News Editor

The Dunkin' Donuts on Wilkes-Barre's Public Square, a popular stop for employees working in downtown offices as well as students from Wilkes University and King's College, has closed temporarily.

Signs on the door, discovered in December, apologized for the closure, citing "current economic conditions" as the reason for the now temporary closure. There has been no additional comment on when or if the establishment will be reopened.

The closure of this Dunkin' location, although upsetting, is understandable, as many of Dunkin's primary customers were employees who worked in the office buildings downtown.

Teri Ooms, executive director of the Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development at Wilkes University, noted how this closure is just the beginning of changes in the downtown landscape.

"The city of Wilkes-Barre had the fifth-largest downtown working population in the state. Coupled with the students, there was a very robust group of customers," Ooms explained. "We know that most

businesses are working from home or on staggered schedules, and most students have returned. So there are people in the downtown, but the businesses are still seeing revenue losses."

While this closure may be a disappointing change for those who are still working downtown, many students on campus are also disappointed in the temporary closure.

For some students, like Erin Schaepe, a senior secondary education and English major, the closure stirs up melancholy feelings and happy memories.

"I think it's sad they're closing," Schaepe said. "I have a lot of memories from freshman year of walking to the Square with friends to get a coffee when we would feel stressed over exams or homework and needed a break."

Even though there is a Starbucks on campus, many students preferred to get their daily dose of caffeine at Dunkin', and these students frequented the coffee shop regularly.

Third-year earth and environmental science major Meghan Englehart walked to Dunkin' as part of her routine, which is now altered because of the closure.

"I used to walk to that Dunkin' every

morning after 8 a.m. physics, and it was the highlight of my morning every time," Englehart said. "I also feel like a lot of people prefer Dunkin' over Starbucks."

If Englehart's claim that students prefer Dunkin' to Starbucks is true, there are still other Dunkin' locations nearby in Wilkes-Barre Township or Kingston that can be visited, but the proximity and ease of access with the Dunkin' on Public Square are what drove so many students to stop in.

Nicole Lissie, a third-year biology major, expressed her disappointment in the closure, as well as her concern for other students.

"I definitely miss it," Lissie said. "I like the location because it's so close to campus that I can walk to it, especially if I'm already out in the Square doing other things. The next closest one isn't within walking distance, so I can imagine for those who don't have a car it's even more disappointing and inconvenient."

Ooms discussed what may have caused this Dunkin' to sink into the red while other businesses on the square were able to stay afloat.

Many businesses have innovated with online sales, takeout and delivery while

looking for new markets to serve," she explained.

"Those that have been able to reinvent themselves are likely those that will remain. What is important to remember is that our post-pandemic world is still likely to be different from our pre-pandemic world, and many jobs will remain remote or hybrid, so innovation is the key to long-term success."

Some students, such as fourth-year earth and environmental science major Erin Tollinger, did not care too much about this location closing but were more concerned for employees of the Dunkin' branch.

"I only went there once or twice, so I am not very upset with the closure, but it is sad to think that everyone at that location may have lost their jobs," Tollinger said. "I think it's sad that we're a year into the pandemic, and we keep seeing job loss and closure everywhere."

Students' frustration about the closure may not last forever, but it seems as though it will last until downtown goes back to its normal activity, whenever that may be.



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Student reactions to being back on Wilkes' campus

Jessica Smith, Junior Accounting and Finance Major



"I am happy to be back on campus and looking forward to a hopeful spring season. The majority of my courses are in an asynchronous format so my semester looks quite different compared to most, but I feel busier than normal. Even though this semester presents a lot of new challenges, I am excited to be back!"

Chris Lombardo, Sophomore Pharmacy Major



"I feel there is less uncertainty going into this semester. After taking classes in the fall that were in-person, synchronous and fully online, I feel more comfortable entering this semester. The mandated return testing also eliminates some uncertainty; starting with no positive cases should keep things going more smoothly."

Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact life, arts & entertainment editor: Emily.Cherkauskas@wilkes.edu

Wilkes students and faculty celebrate Black History Month

Various events take place on campus to honor Black voices

By Judah Nicole Lyles
Staff Writer

Black History Month is not always celebrated and honored within the school curriculum and on college campuses – something that Wilkes is attempting to change.

Brianna Rowland, senior musical theatre major and Multicultural Student Union president, had some ideas as to why Black History Month is so essential for students and faculty.

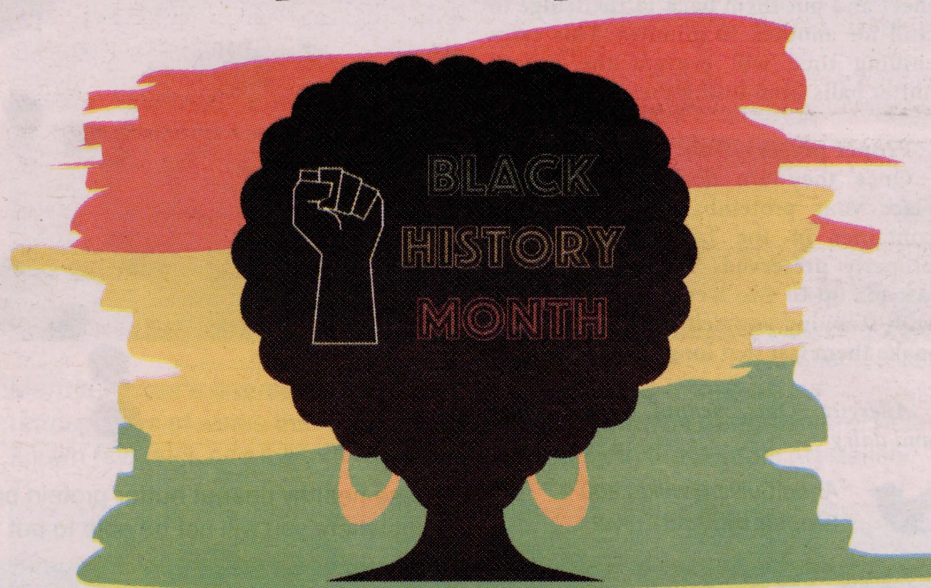
While the knowledge of the importance of the month is there, the purpose of the month is to uplift black voices, and it may seem difficult to do so when no one is listening.

“I think that it’s essential to have events for Black History Month because Black history is American history,” Rowland said. “And Americans understand the importance of setting aside time to honor our history – that’s why we have a number of federal holidays, for example. As an institution of higher education in 2021, I think it’s imperative that we offer our students and community programs to expand their engagement with Black history – and I’m happy that we’re doing that in a variety of ways.”

Black History Month at Wilkes is taking a virtual turn this year.

After the events of last year, the education and unity that Black History Month aims to create and enforce is sorely needed. The Multicultural Student Union, in conjunction with Dr. Amy Sopcak-Joseph, assistant professor of history, and Dr. Christopher Zarpentine, associate professor of philosophy, made sure that events were planned and ready to be executed for this month. Along with MSC, Sopcak-Joseph and Zarpentine made it their mission this year to not allow the importance of Black History Month to fall to the wayside in the era of COVID-19.

Zarpentine weighed in on the necessity



of Black History Month events at Wilkes.

“For much of this nation’s history, the voices and experiences of Black Americans have often been ignored,” Zarpentine said. “One of the most important things about Black History Month, for me, is that it represents a recognition of this fact and a commitment to recover the stories and the perspectives of Black Americans in our historical narratives.”

Zarpentine continued, “Universities like Wilkes are involved in the production of these historical narratives and are responsible for sharing them – with our students and with society more generally. And this makes it really important for us to host Black History Month events, but also to make sure that we continue to fulfill our duty to our students and to society in everything we do, and not just in February.”

This month includes a total of five MSC-sponsored Black History Events.

On Feb. 3, there was a Zoom lecture by Dr. Aston Gonzalez, associate professor of history at Salisbury University.

On Feb. 12, the Transcribe-a-Thon occurred, an event in which students could join a Zoom call and transcribe

the writings of various prominent black historical figures. This year, students transcribed the writing of Ms. Mary Church Terrell, who helped to found both the National Association of Colored Women and the NAACP. Terrell was also friends with Frederick Douglass, another prominent figure in Black History.

Rowland and Sopcak-Joseph were especially looking forward to Transcribe-a-Thon.

“My personal favorite event this month is the Transcribe-a-Thon because we are saving and preserving important parts of Black History,” Rowland said.

Sopcak-Joseph was also eager for the event, stating, “2021 is the second year that Wilkes is hosting a Transcribe-a-Thon for Douglass Day,” said Sopcak-Joseph. “I’m excited about Transcribe-a-Thon because it’s a chance to actually do history – not just read about it or listen about it.”

On Feb. 16, MSC held a Black History Month Trivia Night via Zoom, with prizes ready and available for the night’s winner.

Arguably, the most potentially impactful event of this month is the open forum on Race and the Curriculum. If any students

have felt that there is something of a disconnect between race and the Wilkes curriculum, or there is a critique of suggestions that they might want to give to the school, the open forum is the place to be. One of the biggest focal points of the meeting will be discussing the potential for an Africana Studies minor or major.


Zarpentine has been in talks with his colleagues for quite some time on how to better incorporate diversity into the curriculum.

“There’s increasing awareness, I think, about race in educational opportunity, in police violence and the criminal justice system and in health care disparities,” Zarpentine said. “There’s been greater attention to the role of large institutions in our society, like various levels of government as well as private entities like banks, in promoting or perpetuating racist policies. I think the massive nationwide protests throughout the summer have raised this awareness to new levels. For me, it’s given conversations about how to continue working on our curriculum with a new sense of urgency.”

The final event of the month will be the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on Feb. 23, where students and faculty will take the time together to reflect on the life of the civil rights activist.

However, Black History does not – and should not – end with Black History Month.

“I would like to see these initiatives to educate students and staff on Black History, culture and communities indefinitely,” Rowland said. “I’ve been learning about white history my entire life, and there is more to the world. There are more BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and people of color) here who have had a major impact on American history. This summer’s events should not have had to occur for people to start realizing that Black History is important.”

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Graphic by Anna Culver

Sweet and healthy: Moody Foodie's rolled PB protein balls

By Anna Culver
Staff Writer

An easy and customizable snack that is sweet and addicting, yet packed with protein and other nutrients.

These super easy, no-bake protein balls are a great mid-day slump snack. This recipe is worth the time commitment around Zoom classes, as they are delicious little treats.

Ingredients:

- 1) 2 ½ cups old-fashioned oats
- 2) 1 cup creamy peanut butter
- 3) ½ cup honey
- 4) 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 5) Pinch of salt
- 6) ½ cup mini chocolate chips
- 7) ½ cup shredded coconut (which can be substituted with mini M&M candies or any other favorite snack)

Mixing the ingredients:

Mix together all your ingredients in a large bowl. Next, put the mixture in the

fridge for about 30 minutes, or until it is cold enough to be solid and moldable.

Rolling the mix:

Take the mixture out of the fridge and roll out the dough into about tablespoon-sized balls. Line up the peanut butter balls on a parchment paper-lined baking sheet and put them back in the fridge to chill for another 30 minutes. This extra chilling time will prevent the peanut butter balls from losing their shape.

Proper preservation:

Once they are done being chilled, place your proteinballs in an airtight container in the fridge so they are properly preserved. These cookies can last for up to two weeks, but good luck with stopping yourself from snacking to make them last that long.

Allergies: Oats, peanut butter, honey and dairy



Anna.Culver@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver



The Beacon/Anna Culver

These healthy peanut butter protein balls are so delicious and addicting to the point where you will not be able to put them down.





BEACON BUMPS

Each week, the Wilkes Beacon staff adds a song to their 2020-2021 Beacon Bumps playlist under Chris Gowarty's account on Spotify. Look below for this week's list of songs.

<p>Kirsten Peters, Editor-in-Chief: Mascara - Niykee Heaton</p> <p>Sean Schmoyer, Co-News Editor: Straight Ahead - Dom Fera</p> <p>Sara Ross, Co-News Editor: Fallin' - Why Don't We</p> <p>Genny Frederick, Asst. News Editor: Straight Ahead - Dom Fera</p> <p>Maddy Kinard, News Staff Writer: PA Nights - Mac Miller</p> <p>Emily Cherkauskas, LA&E Editor: cuddledrug - Interrogative</p> <p>Jordan Daniel, Asst. LA&E Editor: Dead to Me - Kali Uchis</p> <p>Breanna Ebisch, Co-Opinion Editor: Save Your Tears - The Weeknd</p> <p>Dylan Mehl, Co-Opinion Editor: Got It On Me - Pop Smoke</p>	<p>William Billingsley, Asst. Opinion Editor: The Home Depot Beat - Home Depot</p> <p>Ariel Reed, Sports Editor: One More Weekend - Maude Latour</p> <p>Chris Gowarty, Asst. Sports Editor: Heartbeat - Childish Gambino</p> <p>Baylee Guedes, Sports Staff Writer: What's Poppin - Jack Harlow</p> <p>Mia Walker, Lead Designer: Hit Different - SZA</p> <p>Steffen Horwath, Staff Photographer: Endless Mountains - Daniel John</p> <p>Liz Cherinka, Social Media Manager: What They'll Say About Us - FINNEAS</p>
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Sordoni Art Gallery features Martha Posner's "Brutal Beauty"

By Emily Cherkauskas
Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Editor's Note: This page contains graphic and potentially triggering themes and content.


The Sordoni Art Gallery has opened its doors to feature the works of Martha Posner with her series "Brutal Beauty: The Transformation of Women in Mythology."

The exhibition also features a collaboration between Posner and fellow artist Amy Arbus in their #MeToo project.

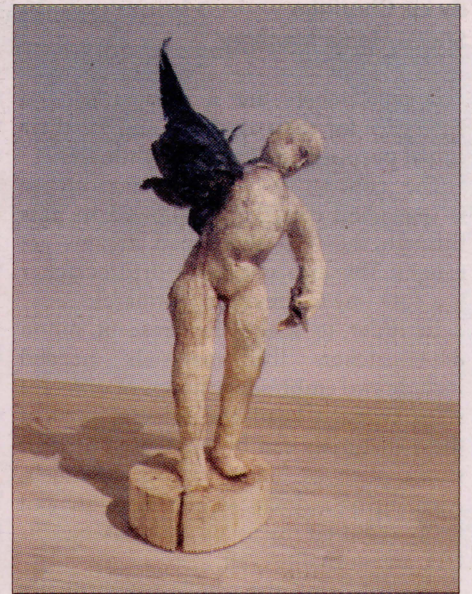
"Brutal Beauty" aims to spark discussion of sexual abuse as well as women and children's trauma, bringing effort to give voices to victims who otherwise were not able to have one.

After opening on Feb. 9, the Sordoni Art Gallery will continue to host Posner and Arbus' work until April 11. The gallery, located on 141 S. Main St., is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 12 to 5 p.m.

For more information on Posner and her artist lecture on Feb. 10 with student reactions and a list of future events hosted by the gallery, turn to page five.

 @wilkesbeacon
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Right: Posner's sculptures, mostly made out of beeswax and donned with hair, symbolize the trauma of young and innocent children, as they enter puberty and adolescence. Below: Portraits of women line the walls of the #MeToo collaboration space. Each dress that they are wearing includes the phrase "#MeToo," bringing empowerment to them.

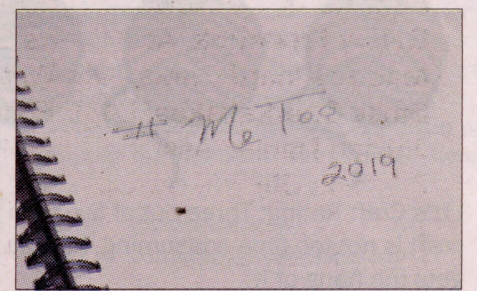
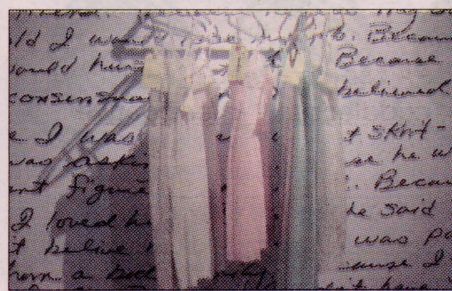


Photos: The Beacon/Emily Cherkauskas
Martha Posner's diverse exhibition can be described as a "mid-career retrospective of works that investigates the transformation of women and well-known fairytales and folklore narratives," according to the Sordoni Art Gallery.

Posner's works explain the artistic connection of human and mythical beasts, where one attempts to overcome the other.



Above and below left: Posner and Arbus' "MeToo" collaboration space. Undergarments with "MeToo" on them hang in the middle of the room. Below right: A booklet where guests are allowed to anonymously write their own traumatic experiences and stories, bringing voices together.



Liz's Craft Column: Hand-twined crescent moon dreamcatcher

By Liz Cherinka
Social Media Manager

Dreamcatchers are a great touch to any space for their aesthetic and for their actual purpose: preventing nightmares.

The concept behind a dreamcatcher is that good dreams are allowed to pass through the web, while bad dreams get caught. This crescent moon dreamcatcher is a cute way to prevent nightmares.

In order to make the crescent moon dreamcatcher, the materials needed include two embroidery hoops of different sizes, twine, a bead and scissors. Any of these materials can be purchased at craft stores, such as Joann Fabrics, Michaels, Amazon or a dollar store. There are not many required materials and making this DIY an affordable craft.

To start, grab the smallest embroidery hoop and remove the smaller hoop without the metal size adjuster. This will be the hoop that becomes the dreamcatcher.

Cut a decent amount of twine because it is difficult if the twine runs out in the middle of making the loops. If that were to happen, just tie a knot and continue.

To begin the dreamcatcher, tie a knot using the twine onto the hoop in any area. Wrap the twine around the ring, and pull it around under itself to form a loop.

Continue this around the whole ring, spacing out each loop because the webbing gets smaller as it continues to the center. Now that loops have been made around the hoop, the "foundation" is completed.

At the first existing "curve," wrap the twine up, around and through it in the same way as before, and continue this over-and-over until reaching the middle. Pull the twine tight when making the loops to ensure that it looks like a spider web.

When the loops finally reach the center, the bead can be added. In order to add the bead, string the excess twine through the bead, wrap it around the twine loop above it and tie a knot. This should secure the

bead in place, but feel free to add an extra knot if needed.

Now the dreamcatcher hoop is completed. It is time to move on to what makes this a crescent moon dreamcatcher.

The idea behind the crescent moon comes from the second, larger hoop. If placed in the proper spot with one area of each hoop touching, a crescent shape can be seen between the two hoops. This space will be filled in with twine. To preface, this takes a while and is tedious. The result is worth it though, so stick around.

Grab the larger hoop and keep the smaller one without the metal size adjuster, as done before. Cut a piece of twine. Of course, cutting a large piece so larger chunks can be done at once will be easier, but running out of twine is an easy problem to solve. If you run out of twine while wrapping, tie a knot from the end of the existing piece to the next piece and tuck the knot away in the back of the dreamcatcher.


Start wrapping the twine around both hoops, and continue either clockwise or counterclockwise around the hoop. Eventually, the hoops will no longer touch each other and larger loops of twine will be made.

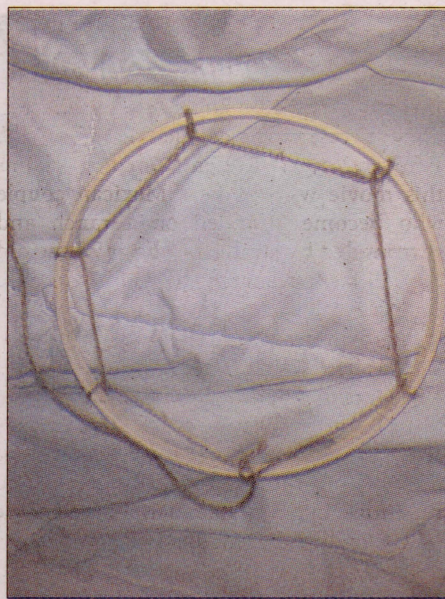
Try to avoid creating large gaps between the twine loops on the larger hoop but, based on the fundamental geometry of a circle, there will start to be gaps as you progress around the hoop.

Keep wrapping the twine around both hoops until you arrive at the place where the original twine loop is. Tie a knot and that completes the crescent.

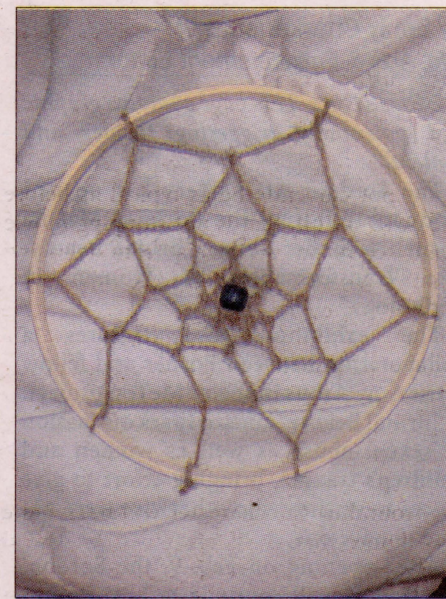
To hang, create a circle with twine by tying two ends together. Pull the circle through the top of the dreamcatcher and bring the one end through the other, creating a loop.

Fix any gaps around the large hoop, and feel free to display anywhere.

 Liz.Cherinka@wilkes.edu
Graphic by Anna Culver



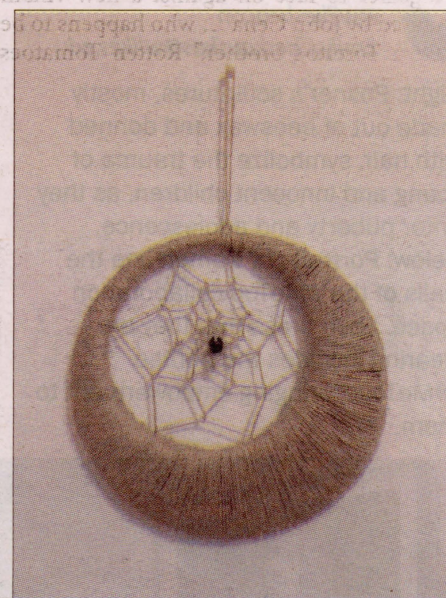
1) Grab your smaller embroidery hoop out of the two and remove the metal size adjuster from it. Cut a decent amount of twine, and begin making the dreamcatcher. Loop the twine around the hoop and then under itself in order to form a loop.



2) Be sure to pull the loops into tight knots as you make the inner web. When the loops reach the center, the bead can be placed. Add the bead by stringing the excess twine through the bead. Wrap it around the twine loop above it and tie a knot to secure it.



3) In order to make the crescent moon shape, grab the larger hoop and keep the smaller one without the size adjuster. Cut a large piece of twine. Start wrapping the twine around both hoops, either clockwise or counterclockwise.



4) Keep wrapping the twine around both hoops until you reach the end. Tie a knot to complete the crescent. To hang, create a circle with twine by tying two ends together and pull the circle through the top of the dreamcatcher and bring one end through the other, creating a loop.



Liz's Craft Rating: Three out of five yarn balls. Materials are easy to gather. This craft is not too time consuming, but the process can be a bit tedious until one gets the hang of it.

Photos: The Beacon/Liz Cherinka

Grab your popcorn: Upcoming movies and TV shows of 2021

With the new year comes many new series, seasons and sequels

By Jordan Daniel
Asst. Life, Arts & Entertainment Editor

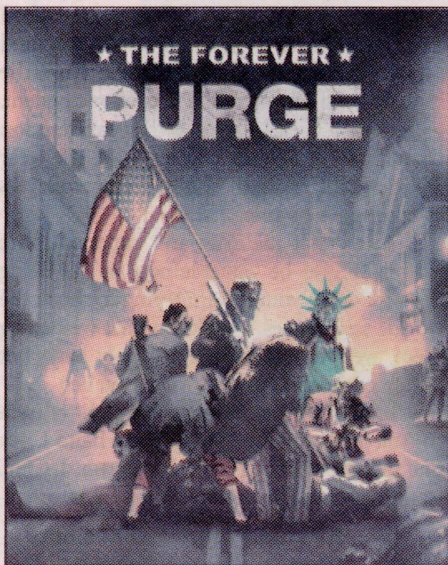
Although going out to the movie theater may not currently be as typical as before COVID-19 hit, that is not stopping movie and television producers from releasing new films and television series for people to get excited for.

Avid fans of Marvel Studios' movies are going to want to watch their upcoming film "Black Widow," starring Scarlett Johansson. According to Rotten Tomatoes, the movie is set to release on May 7.

"We don't quite know what the story surrounding the character will be, but we do know that she'll be joined by David Harbour, Rachel Weisz and rising star Florence Pugh, among others," according to Rotten Tomatoes. "And who knows? Maybe Jeremy Renner's Hawkeye will make an appearance."

A large franchise in the movie industry, "Fast & Furious," is also coming out with a new movie on May 28. This is in the ninth movie in the series.

"The new entry will bring the family back together to face off against a new villain played by John Cena ... who happens to be Dom Toretto's brother," Rotten Tomatoes reported. "Also, Han is back? What? The film was originally slated to open in May of 2020, but was pushed back almost a year to occupy the slot that had originally been reserved for 'Fast & Furious 10.'"



Courtesy of Showtimes

"The Forever Purge" is set to release on July 9.

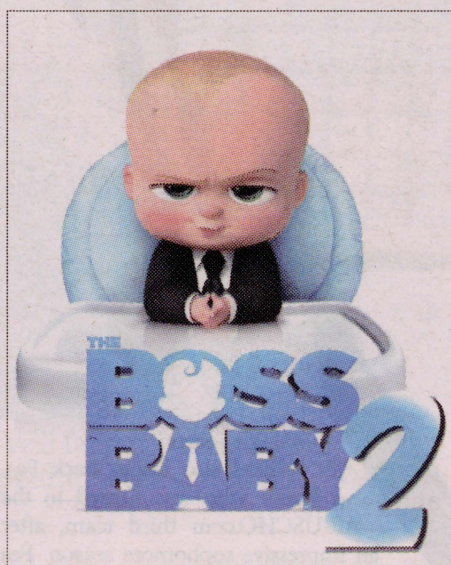
"The Purge" is another movie franchise that has garnered many fans and this year. They are releasing a new movie titled, "The Forever Purge." Rotten Tomatoes claims this movie will follow a Mexican couple who become stranded on a ranch and surrounded by strangers who miss the old days of lawless anarchy. It will be released on July 9.

"I am interested in watching this movie," said Haley Katona, sophomore political science and English double major. "I like 'The Purge' movies because I think they have a cool concept. It is hard to keep a series going without it getting boring and repetitive, but I felt like each 'Purge' movie had something different. I think it is the composition of the details that adds to it being a pretty good set of movies."

As for a family friendly movie perfect for people of all ages to watch, "The Boss Baby: Family Business" will be released on Sept. 17.

According to Rotten Tomatoes, "The Boss Baby" might be rotten, but its monster box office take shows the audience is hungry for more. Fans of Alec Baldwin's fast talking baby in business will be pleased to know he'll be back to reprise his role in 2021. Tom McGrath will return to direct.

This next movie is a sequel to a pretty popular film from the '90s starring basketball legend Michael Jordan. Director Malcolm D. Lee's "Space Jam 2" is set to release on July 16, and this time will feature



Courtesy of MovieInsider

"The Boss Baby: Family Business" will be released on Sept. 17 later this

basketball star Lebron James.

"I'm excited to see how Lebron and the Looney Squad come together in a new movie," said Quincy Banks, sophomore digital design and media art major. "I think they picked the right person because Lebron is the greatest player of our generation. I feel like the movie is going to be good."

The aforementioned movies were a little taste of some of the most anticipated movies coming in 2021. However, if one happens to be more of a television series binge watcher, then get prepared for all new shows coming later this year.

A show that has been on air and loved by many for quite some time, "The Walking Dead," is releasing a new episode for their extended tenth season of the show. According to Rotten Tomatoes, this episode will now air on Feb. 21 on AMC+, and subsequent episodes will debut early on the streaming bundle before they air on AMC on Sundays.

Another important date to look out for is March 21 because that is when the new installment of National Geographic's "Genius" miniseries, "Genius: Aretha," will premiere. This is the third chapter in the franchise and with Tony, Emmy and Grammy award winning Cynthia Erivo as Aretha Franklin.

Rotten Tomatoes claims this television anthology series will premiere in the United States on National Geographic with double-stacked episodes across four consecutive nights starting on March 21. Also, all eight episodes will be available to stream on Hulu by March 25 to culminate the celebration of Franklin's birthday.

A whole new series is coming to streaming platform HBO Max on March 18. That new series is Zack Snyder's "Justice League."

"Following Superman's (Henry Cavill) death, Batman (Ben Affleck) allies with Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot) to recruit a team of "metahumans" – including Aquaman (Jason Momoa), Cyborg (Ray Fisher), and the Flash (Ezra Miller) – to save the world from an invading army," as per Rotten Tomatoes.

Lastly, another popular television series, "The Handmaid's Tale," will be beginning their fifth season on March 21. If one has not begun this series, streaming previous seasons can be done on Hulu where their new season will stream next month as well.



Courtesy of IMDb

The fifth season of "The Handmaid's Tale" is set to premiere on March 21.

"I really enjoyed the first couple seasons of "The Handmaid's Tale," said Lizzy Antes, sophomore nursing major. "I'm extremely excited for season five because there's a lot of questions from the previous season that still need to be answered. Even though it's scary to think about, I enjoy how realistic it seems. I think there are a lot of similarities to what is happening in our world now, and it's good to watch to understand the extremity of certain problems happening in the world."

Since it is hard for people to go out in public due to the COVID-19 pandemic, not many people are currently going to be attending a movie theatre showing. However, this list is meant to help movie watchers look forward to the release dates of the most anticipated films of the year, and hopefully it will make them be patient enough to wait to watch these movies from the safety of their own homes once they are available to buy, download or stream.

Plus, in the meantime, one can begin or rewatch the television shows listed here, too.



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The Road to Utica:

**By Kirsten Peters
Editor-in-Chief**

Almost a full 365 days has passed since the Colonels lost to Utica College in the United Collegiate Hockey Conference Championship on March 7. On Feb. 19 and 20, Wilkes will be opening their abbreviated 2021 season with none other than their UCHC rival – Utica.

“I think drawing on the experiences that we’ve had the past two years when you lose to a team six times, I think every time you take a little something from those games, and it adds a little more kindling to the fire,” said Wilkes head coach Tyler Hynes. “I think what we learned last year, making it as far as we did, was how hard it is to make it that far and how many things need to go right.”

For the Colonels, this two-game series against Utica is more than just the start of the season. Instead, Wilkes will be attempting to win the program’s first game against the Pioneers, the only conference team Wilkes has yet to beat in its first two years of existence.

“They’ve had our number, but we’ve added a couple big pieces and got some guys back who were injured, so we’ve added to our depth,” said junior forward Donald Flynn, 2020 Sid Watson player of the year nominee. “I think the biggest thing is our experience. The fire has been burning for almost a year now, so it’s time to take care of some unfinished business.”

Despite the tough end, the 2019-20 season was a stepping stone for the relatively young program to receive national attention, where Wilkes made its way into the USCHO.com Top 15 rankings, climbing as high as No. 12. Michael Gurska and Nick Fea also joined Flynn in receiving national attention.

Notably, Wilkes boasted one of the most talented rosters in the UCHC and the country last year, and fortunately they return a majority of the team as well as some new additions who can make an immediate impact, including Tyler Dill who transferred in from Utica.

“Each one of them brings something different, and I think that when you have a team that has stayed fairly similar now for going on three years, it’s important to have those guys come in who can compete right away and aren’t going to be intimidated,” said Hynes of his newcomers. “I don’t know who’s going to surprise us as far as making an impact – I think that’s going to be the exciting part, and they’ve got 10 games to do it.”

Wilkes will go into this season without a key piece from its first two seasons, as Tyson Araujo, one of the team’s captains, will not be returning.

“Not having (Araujo) is a huge loss for us both on and off the ice, and I don’t think any one guy on our team can do what he did for us from a leadership standpoint,” said Gurska, who had been co-captains with Araujo for two years. “What’s great about our team is that we are full of guys who always do the right thing and step up when the team needs it most. This is a situation where we’ll not only rely on our captains, but our extended leadership group and each member of our team, to step up and play a role as well.”

The Colonels have not publicly announced who, if anyone, will get to wear Araujo’s “C” from last season, but Hynes has hinted that a

something that leaders on our team were ready for. I’ve been so proud and happy with how they’ve responded and how everyone has picked up a little bit of that slack.”

Araujo’s leadership is not the only component that the Colonels are losing, as he was second on the team in goals scored and was a key piece on one of the best power plays in the country last season. On the bright side, Wilkes has an army of talented players who will be used to fill the void left by Araujo on the offensive end.

As such, Wilkes brings back Flynn for his junior season, and after a sophomore campaign that had him recognized with some of the most talked about names at this level. Flynn led the nation in goals scored last season with 27 and is one of just two players in UCHC history to eclipse the 50-point mark in

defenseman with Gurska’s return. Gurska was named an ACHA second team All-American. Gurska’s ability to play at both ends of the ice, quarterbacking the top power play unit and showing that he is one of the most reliable defensemen in the conference on the back end, is what makes him stand out athlete.

“He gets a lot of credit and attention, and he’s deserving of all of it,” said Hynes. “(Gurska’s) unbelievable ... leadership is not a license to do less, it’s a responsibility to do more, and I think he’s the definition of someone who lives his life according to that.”

Additionally, the Colonels have a former All-USCHO.com rookie of the year on the roster in Tyler Barrow, who scored the game-winning overtime goal in the tiebreaker game against Stevenson that sent Wilkes to the UCHC Championship against Utica.

“It was definitely one of the biggest goals I have scored, but that doesn’t change how the team played that game,” said Barrow. “Moving forward into this shortened, 10-game schedule, we feel more confident and ready to compete for a UCHC Championship.”

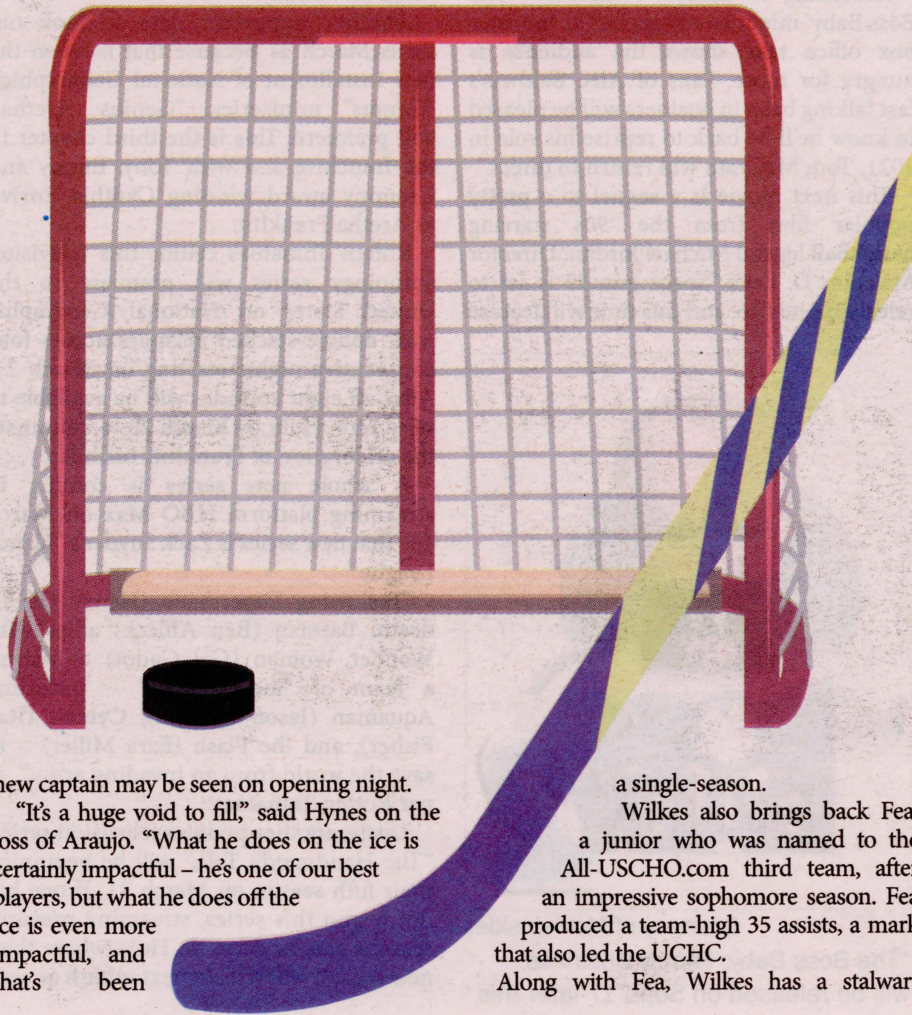
With the season beginning this week, Wilkes’ attention shifts to the heavyweight of the UCHC – Utica. Wilkes has lost the first six games of the program’s history against Utica, with the closest one coming in the first meeting between these two teams, a 2-1 final; however, Utica has lost notable players on their roster, such as defenseman Daniel Fritz, goaltender Gianluca Baggetta and captain forward Jarrod Fitzpatrick. Now, the Pioneers will rely on a different wave of talent, including last year’s rookie of the year Brandon Osmundson, UCHC co-player of the year Connor Landrigan and other younger players to take on a new role.

“I think that maturity and experience are really going to be valuable now in not being the wide-eyed young team trying to shock the world,” said Hynes. “We know that we belong there, we feel that we cannot only hang but punch back, and I guess we’ll see on Feb. 19.”

With a 10-game season, the weight of each contest is magnified. If Wilkes can hand Utica one or two losses to start the season, UCHC standings could be noticeably different.

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Photos: Kirsten Peters

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new captain may be seen on opening night.

“It’s a huge void to fill,” said Hynes on the loss of Araujo. “What he does on the ice is certainly impactful – he’s one of our best players, but what he does off the ice is even more impactful, and that’s been

a single-season.

Wilkes also brings back Fea, a junior who was named to the All-USCHO.com third team, after an impressive sophomore season. Fea produced a team-high 35 assists, a mark that also led the UCHC. Along with Fea, Wilkes has a stalwart

ROUND THREE



The Colonels, including junior forward Nick Fea (front), have been preparing at 6 a.m. practices this semester.



Forward Donald Flynn led the nation with 27 goals and received multiple accolades as a sophomore last season.



On Feb. 19 and 20, Wilkes will face reigning UCHC champion, Utica, in the opening weekend of their 10-game season.



Captain defenseman Michael Gurska is eagerly awaiting the opportunity to avenge Wilkes' losses to Utica.

Opinion

Have an opinion or want to write a guest column? Contact co-opinion editors: Breanna.Ebisch@wilkes.edu and Dylan.Mehl@wilkes.edu

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2020-21

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Our Voice

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

Are dating apps harmful to relationships?

In a world plagued by hundreds of dating apps, one can ask the question: What are the impacts of dating apps on our generation's ability to form romantic relationships?

In a Pew Research article from Feb. 6, 2020, "10 facts about Americans and online dating," Emily A. Vogels cites that 30 million Americans were using some form of dating service in 2019, whether that be in a website format or through an app.

Of those 30 million users, only 12 percent of U.S. adults report having been in a committed relationship with or married to someone they met through a dating app or website.

So, what are the other 88 percent doing then?

The other 88 percent may be searching for a relationship through their work, friends, bars, etc.. However, the "loveless" and "non-committal" nature of dating apps may be difficult for people who truly want to find love.

Dating websites and apps tend to create an environment for "flings" and reinforce the idea of "hookup culture," rather than create a space to cultivate long, sustainable relationships.

Despite the flings that can prosper from these apps, this begs the question of whether or not dating services work in the long term. Hook-up culture directly harms not only relationships, but it harms the mental health of those who use these apps.

There are people on dating apps with legitimate hopes of securing some form of a lifelong partner. The sickening nature of only wanting someone to help you "get off" harms the way people view love and relationships.

In 2019, Vogels found that 45 percent of Americans who had used dating apps or websites reported feeling more frustrated than hopeful – does this then make them less likely to want to continue the relationship search?

The constant rejection of finding some form of actual love creates this feeling of worthlessness and encourages both men and women to be overly sexualized and no longer look for a lifelong relationship.

The saddening feeling a person gets when the only time they receive a text from someone they hope for a relationship with is at 2 a.m. and it simply states, "You up?," can break a person and harms their conscience.

They are left with this feeling of being good enough to have sex with, but not being pretty, valuable or worthy enough to have a public relationship with.

Not only do users feel frustrated, but there is also an emotional toll when things go awry between users.

Fifty-seven percent of young female users state that another user, at some point in their usage, has sent them explicit images or messages they did not ask for.

However, statistics also show that of

the 30 million American users in 2019, the LGBTQ+ community was the most prominent on the dating app scene, as they are able to enter into a safe space for dating.


LGBTQ+ community members find success in dating apps because of the difficulties that they can face in finding partners in the public eye.

In a Statista article from Oct. 26, 2020, "Online dating in the United States – Statistics & Facts," J. Clement explained that the most popular online dating app in 2019 by usage sessions per month was Grindr, a dating app for individuals who do not identify as heterosexual.

With the existence of countless dating apps for very specific groups of people, it is easy to fall prey to the curiosity of wanting to try to find a partner in a more untraditional way.

Yet, the potential consequences that are paired with joining these communities can be more devastating than anything.

While there are both numerous positives and negatives to the constant use of dating apps that play a large role in modern day society, the harmful aspects of this particular type of dating has changed what it means to find love in the 21st century and has recreated the expectations for a healthy, prosperous relationship.

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The first weeks of the Biden presidency: A good start?

By Liam Flynn
Staff Writer

After being sworn into office on Jan. 20, President Joe Biden has been hard at work wiping the slate clean from a disastrous past four years. Settling into the presidency, Biden has begun working on the general promise of his campaign: Building a new America.

Other than redesigning the Oval Office, accompanying his impeccably well-dressed First Lady and demanding a respectful workplace of his staff, Biden has spent a lot of time both undoing former president Donald Trump's motions and beginning to remedy what some deem our nation's most pressing issues.

Biden implemented a federal mask mandate, requiring the use of masks and social distancing in all federal buildings, on federal lands and by federal employees and contractors. Biden also signed an executive order that stopped the United States' withdrawal from the WHO, making Dr. Anthony Fauci the head of the delegation to the WHO.

On Jan. 21, the administration released a 200-page document titled, "National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness."

On his second day in office, Biden invoked the Defense Production Act to speed up the vaccination process and ensure the availability of glass vials, syringes and other vaccine supplies at the federal level.

In justifying his use of the act, Biden said, "And when I say wartime, people kind of look at me like 'wartime?' Well, as I said last night, 400,000 Americans have died. That's more than have died in all of World War II – 400,000. This is a wartime undertaking."

Furthermore, Biden established the White House COVID-19 Response Team, a White House Office dedicated to coordinating a unified federal government response. On Jan. 21, Biden signed 10 executive orders pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to meet his vaccination goal of 100 million shots in his first 100 days in office, Biden signed an executive order increasing needed supplies.

On Jan. 20, Biden signed an executive order rejoining the United States to the Paris Agreement. With the U.S. rejoining the agreement, countries responsible for two-thirds of the global greenhouse gas emission will make pledges of becoming carbon neutral, whereas without the U.S. it was only half.

That same day, Biden also canceled the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, an

extension of the Keystone Pipeline, by signing an executive order.

During his early days in office, Biden focused on "advancing equity, civil rights, racial justice, and equal opportunity," according to The New York Times. Biden's early actions in office focused on racial equity more than any president since Lyndon B. Johnson, who passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

not renew contracts with private prisons, citing the need to "reduce profit-based incentives" for the incarceration of racial minorities.

GEO Group considered the policy "a solution in search of a problem." David Fathi, the director of the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union, stated that the executive order did not fully end America's usage of private prisons.

transfer civil servants and career scientists and replace them with employees friendly to the Trump administration.

On Jan. 20, Biden halted the construction of the United States-Mexico barrier and ended the National Emergency Concerning the Southern Border of the United States, declared in February 2018. Biden issued a proclamation that ended the Trump travel ban on predominantly Muslim countries in January 2017.

Biden also reaffirmed protections to DACA recipients. The same day, Biden sent a memorandum to the Department of State reinstating Deferred Enforced Departure for Liberians. On Jan. 20, the Biden administration issued a moratorium on deportations from the Department of Homeland Security for the first 100 days of his presidency.

On Jan. 21, Biden proposed a bill that, if passed, would replace the word "alien" with "noncitizen" in U.S. immigration law.

The following day, Biden had a call with Mexican president Andrés Manuel López Obrador. On the call, Biden and López Obrador discussed immigration, where Biden spoke of reducing immigration from Mexico to the United States by targeting what Biden deemed as root causes.

According to an Associated Press report, López Obrador noted that Biden pledged \$4 billion to "help development in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala, nations whose hardships have spawned tides of migration through Mexico toward the United States."

On Jan. 23, Biden proposed an immigration bill. As proposed, the bill would give a path to citizenship to 11 million immigrants living in the U.S. without permanent legal status. The bill would also make it easier for certain foreign workers to stay in the U.S.

Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin called the bill "aspirational." The bill is widely expected not to pass in both houses of Congress without significant revision.

Throughout the infancy of his new presidency, No. 46 is off to an amazing start. Although much has been done in just a few short weeks, we still do have a very long way to go to restore the country to a place where citizens can feel representative of hope, freedom and equality.

Gallup already has Joe Biden with 57 percent approval, while Trump was at 45 percent, near where he would remain throughout his presidency. It is safe to say we have a much more qualified leader steering our ship.



The Biden administration is seeking to put Harriet Tubman on the twenty-dollar bill. This decision comes after Steven Mnuchin blocked the Obama administration's decision to put Tubman on the bill.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said that it was important that United States money and notes reflect the "history and diversity" of the U.S., and putting Tubman on the twenty-dollar bill would reflect that.

Biden signed an executive order on Jan. 25 that lifted the ban on transgender military service members. This reversed a memorandum imposed by Trump.

On Jan. 26, Biden directed the Department of Justice to reduce their usage of private prisons and ordered the attorney general to

Biden signed an executive order that removed schedule F on Jan. 22, overturning a number of Trump's policies that limited the collective bargaining power of federal unions. Biden's executive order also promotes a \$15 minimum wage for federal workers and repeals three executive orders signed by Trump that made the employee discipline process stricter and restricted union representatives' access to office space.

As well as promoting a \$15 minimum wage, Biden's executive order increases the amount of money going to the families of children who are missing meals because of school closures due to the pandemic by 15 percent. The repealing of Trump's three executive orders comes as the orders were used to



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Graphic by Mia Walker

Should the NBA have an All-Star Weekend this year? Some say...

By Dylan Mehl
Co-Opinion Editor

As we progress through the NBA season that many of us were unsure would even happen, we come upon a time that many NBA fans look forward to: All-Star Weekend.

This weekend would, under normal circumstances, mean three-point shootouts, dunk contests and, of course, the All-Star game, but that all went into question in our current COVID-19 world.

The original plan from the NBA and Commissioner Adam Silver was to withhold from All-Star festivities this season, but as we near that day, the chances continue to grow that we will see All-Star weekend in some form.

There are a variety of reasons for why the NBA would love to get some form of All-Star Weekend back, and leading the way is profit, presumably.

This weekend is a huge draw for fans and has been for years, as it is a tradition that is looked forward to like a holiday in the NBA.

Historically, this weekend takes place on three separate nights. It typically starts on a Friday night with rookie showcases, then progresses to Saturday night with a variety of skills contests like the three-point and dunk contests and concludes on Sunday

night in an All-Star Game that sees 24 of the NBA's top players square off.

However, like many other events, All-Star Weekend would have to look much different this year.

The current proposed plan from the NBA to the National Basketball Players Association sees an All-Star Game and a variety of competitions all taking place on March 7.

Before said events, players would have to enter a quarantine bubble in Atlanta from March 6 to 7 and leave right after the game; this bubble would obviously be done for health and safety protocols. The NBA would then look to resume its regular season on March 11.

On paper, this appears to be a solid plan put together from the NBA; however, there are a variety of points to be made against holding an All-Star weekend. The first simply being the risk versus reward in terms of health for players, coaches and staff.

In a game that has no stakes on the line aside from pride of players and coaches, there is not much to gain from subjecting oneself to playing with individuals from around the country. Although they will be tested before the game, we know there is still a risk involved.

Secondly, the players in the league do

not seem to be behind having the All-Star festivities in any form.

"I have zero energy and zero excitement about an All-Star Game this year," said LeBron James during a video conference. "I don't even understand why we're having an All-Star Game."

Sacramento Kings guard De'Aaron Fox felt similarly to James, stating, "If I'm gonna be brutally honest, I think it's stupid."

If James, the league's top star, does not want to have an All-Star Game and many other players around the league agree, what is the point? To answer that question with a sentiment from earlier – profit.

Although many players are not excited about the idea of having an All-Star Game, it is fair that the NBA would push for this to happen, as over the last year they have lost much of their revenue due to COVID-19. If the NBA can hold an All-Star Game, how should they do it?

The best course of action is to hold the event in the smallest time frame possible, as to avoid both a long bubble stay for those involved and to lower the chance of the virus spreading. The NBA is ahead on this idea, as they are looking to hold all of the events in one day.

Next, minimizing the amount of participants and people at the event also


means limiting the number of events held. The NBA should focus solely on their three major events: The three-point contest, the dunk contest and the All-Star Game itself.

This would not only be beneficial for the health and safety of players, but it would also assist in television scheduling, as the NBA would be cramming a weekend's worth of events into one day. The league can even go a step further by selecting participants for the dunk contest and three-point shootout from the 24-player All-Star pool for the All-Star Game.

Offering incentives to players for participating in this event would be a struggle for the NBA, as they cannot afford to throw money at them; however, the players should be willing to make the sacrifice in playing this game for the league they love so much.

These players are already risking their health by playing regular season games, meaning one extra game is not much different.

This one night would be huge for the league, while it would simply just be an inconvenience for the players. That appears to be a pill they will have to swallow not only for the league but for the fans as well.

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Bre's Beats: The Weeknd's "blinding" halftime show performance

By Breanna Eblsch
Co-Opinion Editor

It is no surprise that the Super Bowl is the most watched television event in America, and although millions tune in to watch the two best teams in the NFL play a riveting game to win the championship, many are much more interested in the iconic halftime show that features one of music's biggest names.

This year, as the Kansas City Chiefs and Tampa Bay Buccaneers faced-off in the highly anticipated matchup, The Weeknd had the honor of performing during halftime and completely blew away the audience like no other performer has before.

After his record-breaking album, "After Hours," was snubbed of all nominations by the Recording Academy for the 2021 Grammys, the expectations were high for The Weeknd's performance. The catchy pop melodies and unique R&B aspects of his music made the dreary parts of the pandemic a little brighter.

When the announcement came that the singer would be playing the biggest performance of the year, excitement quickly took over along with countless speculations.

And one thing's for sure, The Weeknd did not disappoint.

With numerous COVID-19 protocols in place, a limited number of people in the audience and an eager nation to amaze, The Weeknd's Super Bowl halftime show is arguably one of the best in the game's history.

Immediately, the cinematic and artistic elements of the performance were clear, as they have been throughout the entire "After Hours" era, and the medley of his chart topping singles opened with "Starboy." A dramatic stage complete with a full choir and set pieces to reflect various aspects of each song was not placed in the middle of the football field like usual, but remained equally as impressive.

Throughout the entire 14-minute performance, various elements and aspects further enhanced the visual side of the show. While singing the 2015 hit, "Can't Feel My Face," The Weeknd entered a Hollywood-style, lit-mirrored hallway behind the stage, which was also filled with a group of look-

alike dancers in style and accordance to the character created for the album. Fireworks from multiple places around the stadium lit up the sky during big moments, and the singer used all possible camera angles and available levels of the stage.

But, the most incredible surprise of the night was the insanely smooth transition from "House of Balloons" to the widely popular hit "Blinding Lights," where The Weeknd took the performance onto the field with the hundreds of dancers who had appeared at various points of the show. The crowd in attendance went wild, and tens of thousands of people watching from the comfort of their homes looked on in either amazement or bewilderment.

Although the show was very visually pleasing and outstanding in terms of production, the vocal performance was just as remarkable. Unlike many other previous halftime performers who have openly admitted to lip-syncing parts or entire songs, The Weeknd is one of the few to do


the whole set live.

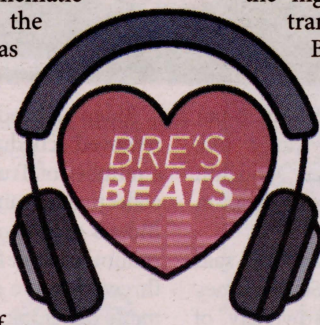
This, of course, impacted some moments that could have been seen throughout the broadcast due to the fact that the sound mixing also had to be done live. But knowing this fact, makes everything the well-known singer brought to the stage even more extraordinary.

From start to finish, it is safe to say that this year's Super Bowl halftime show was like no other in many ways. The Weeknd brought his very best, which can easily be seen as one of the best performances not only of the year, but in Super Bowl history.

Even without all the flashy aspects that are usually involved in the halftime performance, such as the large stage in the middle of the field, an unexpected appearance from another artist or a full crowd either in the stands or by the performer, it is hard to deny that the show was amazing under the circumstances and overall.

There is no doubt that The Weeknd's set will be one of the greatest for a long time to come and remembered by the millions who watched Super Bowl LV.

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What makes Tom Brady the Greatest Athlete of All Time?

By Dylan Mehl
Co-Opinion Editor

In Super Bowl LV, Tom Brady led the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a 31-9 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs in just his first season with the team. This puts Brady at seven Super Bowl victories, and perhaps cements him as the greatest athlete of all time.

There are several reasons why Brady is now clearly the greatest athlete to ever play a sport, starting with longevity. Throughout his 21 NFL seasons, Brady has been at the top of the mountain since he won his first Super Bowl in 2002 until now. Most Hall of Fame NFL players are lucky to have a career longer than 15 seasons, but Brady is going into his 20th year of domination in a 21 year long career.

Brady has dominated the sport for so long that his career can actually be broken up into thirds and three separate Hall of Fame careers. Starting with his first third from 2000 to 2006, Brady won three Super Bowls, was the Super Bowl MVP for two of them and was the best clutch player in the NFL during that time period.

Over the next seven seasons from 2007 to 2013, Brady was a stat machine. He led the league in passing touchdowns twice, won two regular season MVPs and led the Patriots to an undefeated 2007 season, despite a Super Bowl loss to the New York Giants. Then, looking at the most recent seven seasons from 2014 to 2021, Brady won four Super Bowls, three Super Bowl MVPs and one more regular season MVP.

At 43-years-old, Brady became the oldest player to ever win a Super Bowl MVP after defeating the Chiefs this season and passing a record previously held by Brady himself when he won it back in 2017 at 39. His excellence statistically and his ability to keep winning championship after championship is unheard of not just in the NFL but in all of sports.

While Brady's longevity is unmatched, he has the perfect success story in sports as well. Brady was drafted in the sixth round as the 199th overall pick in the NFL draft by the New England Patriots.

The likes of Peyton Manning, Aaron Rodgers, Jerry Rice and many other NFL greats were selected in the first round, but not Brady. Brady's draft report was highlighted with negative comments on the quarterback, from "poor build," "lacks mobility and ability to avoid the rush," "lacks a really strong arm" and so on, leading to the chip on Brady's shoulder.

Brady then did not see the field as a starting quarterback until his second NFL season, and this was only due to an injury to Patriots' starter Drew Bledsoe. Brady immediately succeeded and seized the starting job, never to look back.

That chip on Brady's shoulder has clearly never left and has fueled how far he has come. While all sports fans love a good game and to watch good talent, everyone also loves a good story, and Brady emphasizes the classic underdog story that is so popular. This is especially true of American culture, where someone who was not supposed to be at the top ends up being the standard that others are compared to.

Statistically speaking, there is not even a conversation to be had regarding if Brady is the greatest of all time. Brady's stats are head-and-shoulders above the rest. From an individual perspective, Brady currently leads the NFL in all-time passing touchdowns with 581, is second in all-time yards with 79,204 and is in the top 10 in pass completion percentage — while not even cracking the top 30 in interceptions thrown, with only 191.

While the numbers clearly speak for themselves, one can also compare Brady to one of the all-time greats, Brett Favre. Favre is fourth in all-time passing touchdowns with 508, but he is also first in all-time

interceptions with 336 — a clear distinction.

While Brady's individual numbers show that he is obviously great, it is his consistent winning that puts him a tier above the rest. Right off the bat, he has seven Super Bowl titles in 10 appearances to his name, which is more than any other NFL franchise in history. The idea that Brady, a player who has played for 21 NFL seasons, has more championships than any franchise in the 55-year history of the Super Bowl, is an astonishing accomplishment.

Brady also has the highest career winning percentage, as he has won 76.9 percent of his games, whereas P. Manning is in second place with 70.9 percent. Brady also has played in 14 conference championships, including eight consecutive championships from 2011 to 2018. Furthermore, Brady has won 17 division titles throughout his career.

Notably, there are many crazy stats to take into consideration when evaluating how great Brady truly is. Some really outlandish ones include the fact that Brady is more likely to make a Super Bowl appearance with a 47.6 percent chance than Stephen Curry (one of the greatest shooters in NBA history) is to make a three-point shot on any given day, as Curry has a 43 percent three-point career field goal percentage. Brady is also more likely to win a game (76.9 percent chance) than NBA superstar

LeBron James is to make a free throw (74.4 percent chance).

While all of these stats can demonstrate that Brady is the "GOAT" of football, what sets him apart from Michael Jordan, who has been widely recognized greatest athlete of all time? Jordan obviously had a dominating NBA career, winning six NBA championships with the Chicago Bulls, leading the league in scoring multiple times and simply having the swagger of being the best.

There are many similarities between both Jordan and Brady, but of course, the first word that comes to mind when thinking of either is "winning."

Brady has his record seven Super Bowls, and Jordan went six-for-six in the NBA finals, while never actually seeing a game seven. Further, we can say that killer instinct is something that neither man lacks, and both men display this instinct when the brightest lights are on the biggest stages.

When asked on "Undisputed" who was more clutch between Jordan and Brady, sports analyst Skip Bayless went with Brady. His reasoning was Brady's longevity and consistency of these clutch performances.

This answer from Bayless is very telling as to what separates Brady as the greatest athlete of all time, as Brady's greatness over this incredible stretch of time is unprecedented. Brady also has the edge on Jordan in that he has won with multiple teams.

Jordan won six titles with the Bulls, alongside Scottie Pippen and Phil Jackson, but Brady has now shown everyone that he is the system. Many questioned if it was Brady or head coach Bill Belichick that led to the Patriots' success. And after this season, Brady is looking like the better choice.

Going to Tampa Bay and leading the Buccaneers to the Super Bowl has truly set Brady above all other athletes. Only the NBA's James has been able to consistently win no matter where he is, but James simply lacks the stats to be in the same conversation as Brady — for now.

However, Brady's going to Tampa Bay and leading the Buccaneers, a team that before this season had the worst winning percentage of any team in the four major sports to their first ever home Super Bowl (and a ring) in a one-season turnaround is unfathomable. The only explanation for this instant success is that they have the greatest of all time in Brady.



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Graphic by Mia Walker

This just in: COVID-19 apparently not a miracle, still here

By William Billingsley
Asst. Opinion Editor

Well, if you are reading this, it would appear that you, like the rest of the campus community, more or less survived the last semester relatively intact – congratulations.

But not all students were quite so fortunate. Indeed, there were 104 positive student cases of COVID-19, and a total of 469 student quarantines.

As you know, none of us were sent home in the end (unless you tested positive, then you might have been). And all it cost was the compression or outright removal of all breaks during the semester.

Oh, and 104 student cases.

I suppose now would be a bad time to mention that we actually do not know what the full long-term effects of COVID-19 are or how long they persist for, but they certainly exist, as has been reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

According to the CDC's website, some of these lovely symptoms include, but are not limited to, "fatigue, shortness of breath, coughing, joint pain, chest pain, difficulty with thinking and concentration (brain fog) and heart palpitations."

Good stuff.

But the concerning part is the fact that these are only some of the known long-term symptoms. While the CDC's website has others, there may still be more sinister symptoms in the long run.

As such, it appears that those 104 students might have incurred an extra cost of obtaining their education, depending on if they were fortunate enough to avoid any long-term health issues from their COVID-19 cases.

I suppose that, in the university's eyes, that it is just the cost of doing good business.

But regardless of any potential lingering health problems for those 104, here we are on campus once again.

Now, given what you and I have seen over these last six months at home and on campus with regard to COVID-19 precautions, do you suppose that people are becoming more complacent?

It certainly seems that way.

Even after a whole semester of mask-wearing, distancing and more, it almost seems like people are taking this pandemic less seriously.

Incredibly, it appears that some students still do not know how to wear masks properly (hint: they go over the nose), nor are other students evidently able to read simple signage designating what is an up or down stairwell. I can only hope that the relevant campus authorities are carrying out some semblance of enforcement because, as we all know, the harsh reality is this: The pandemic is (still) not over.

As we have seen out in society, people are still refusing to wear masks outright, and many more will ultimately die before this pandemic will be over, and that is assuming that this pandemic will have a discernible end.

If society is utterly unable to reduce COVID-19 down to minute levels

cases, this caution was well-placed.

This raises an important question: Where was this pre-testing last semester?

At any rate, it also appears that the university will be testing 20 percent of the student body on a weekly basis. Although this too could be criticized for not being implemented sooner, it is at least a commendable effort to reduce transmission rates.

Indeed, Laura Bayzick, a junior criminology major with minors in sociology and women's and gender studies, was more optimistic about this semester.

"I do believe that Wilkes is doing better handling the situation we are currently in," said Bayzick. "We are now eligible to get tested at random through the

distributed across the world, I doubt I would be writing such an article.

Instead, I regret to inform you that COVID-19 has claimed over 2,360,000 lives around the world (at the time this article was written). And despite the fact that the U.S. only makes up 4.25 percent of the world's total population, we lead the world in COVID-19 deaths with 20 percent, to be precise.

We are doing a rather stellar job of this, I must admit.

But despite our nationwide numbers, the university has evidently been fortunate enough to avoid any COVID-19 deaths directly related to its reopening last semester.

However, if the worst were to pass for one of our positive cases, do you suppose that the university would announce that?

I certainly hope so.

After all, our COVID-19 dashboard readily lists our positive cases, those in quarantine, vaccinations, tests and the breakdown of in-person/virtual courses.

At a passing glance, this seems like a thorough breakdown of the numbers. But what about deaths? There appears to be no accounting for deaths. Which, one would think, should be an easy '0'.

Right?

When I last wrote about COVID-19 and the university reopening last semester, I said that I was an optimistic realist.

So while I would like to believe that I still am, and I certainly hope that no one associated with the campus has died as a result of the university's reopening last semester, even I think that this expectation is an unrealistic assumption that borders on delusion.

Because as the familiar adage goes, past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Overall, it is spectacularly surreal to see this kind of capitalistic consensus present at the university (and more generally in society) — that the 104 student cases of COVID-19 (never mind this semester's cases), the possible long-term health ramifications and the possibility of death, however remote or high, is okay, as long as it means we can continue trying to go back to the way things were.

I think Lord Maximus Farquaad said it best back in 2001: "Some of you may die, but it's a sacrifice I am willing to make."

Other potential unpleasant long-term side effects of COVID-19 include, but are not limited to: "Depression, anxiety, changes in mood, muscle pain, headache, fever, heart muscle inflammation, lung function abnormalities, acute kidney injury, rashes, hair loss, smell and taste problems, sleep issues, difficulty with concentration and memory problems."

-CDC

through vaccinations and other measures, then COVID-19 may become endemic — "regularly found." The last thing anyone wants is another recurring virus to worry about on an annual basis.

Last September, I first wrote about how the university was gambling with the lives of its students, employees and all of our families by having an in-person semester with the worldwide pandemic that is COVID-19 still in full swing.

It has been, as many predicted, a grim winter for the United States. But evidently, it was not so grim for Wilkes University.

Regardless, it would seem that our COVID-19 Task Force here on campus decided to approach this semester more cautiously, by mandating a negative COVID-19 test before allowing students to move-in or resume classes. Given that this testing caught 26 positive student

school. Although the safety guidelines on campus haven't really changed, I believe the guidelines, for how small our campus is, worked pretty well. I am so happy to have the ability to be on campus despite everything because I learn so much better in a school setting rather than sitting in my bedroom."

Back when I first wrote my article in September, just under 200,000 Americans had been killed by the pandemic.

At the time that this article was written, the bell was tolled for 475,000 Americans. Unfortunately, by the time you read this, even this statistic will be woefully outdated, as almost 4,000 Americans continue to perish on a daily basis.

To put our overall number of deaths into perspective, we are talking about a third of Philadelphia's population of 1.6 million people.

And if these numbers were more evenly



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Sports

Want your sport covered? Deserve to be Athlete of the Week? Contact sports editor: Ariel.Reed@wilkes.edu

SWIM: Wilkes teams adjust to virtual competition for season

By Baylee Guedes
Sports Staff Writer

Swimming in the Middle Atlantic Conference is officially making a return for the 2021 season, but it is with an extra twist – each meet will be held virtually, and Wilkes is diving headfirst into their first-ever virtual season.

The season is set to begin in March and will have specific guidelines they need to follow due to the ongoing pandemic. Per the COVID-19 guidelines, the season will be condensed and will be held through a virtual scoring system. Through this system, teams will be sending scores and times to each other throughout the privately held swim meets to limit exposure to the virus.

"It's changed so much and swimming is not immune to these changes," Wilkes men's and women's coach Thomas Limouze said. "Wilkes can race at the CYC, and then we can compare times with a team that races at their own pool."

These new mandates also require smaller practice sizes, which has led to more one-on-one time with Limouze, who is preparing his athletes for an unusual season.

"Smaller practice sizes mean a better chance to connect with swimmers one-on-one," Limouze said. "That's one of the reasons why I'm coaching, to begin with.

Everyone is at their own starting point right now, and the extra space means I can meet them there."

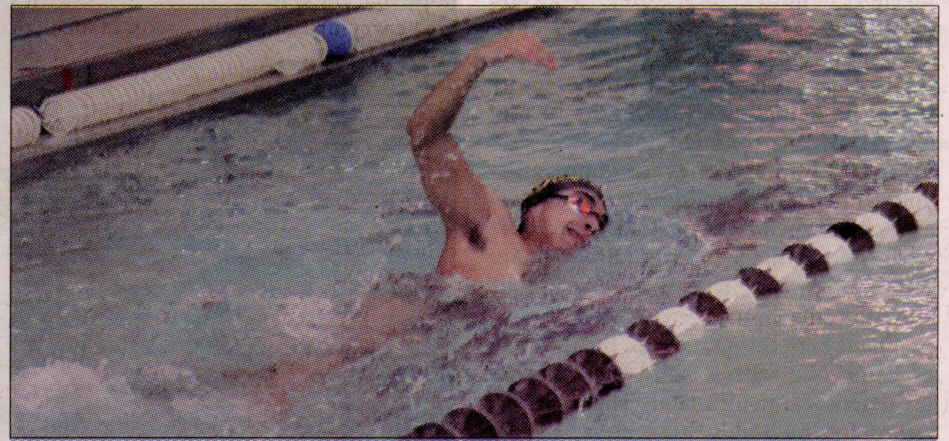
The one-on-one practices have allowed athletes to focus on their craft and perfect their strokes. Wilkes' swimmers are excited to finally get back into the water after waiting for season restrictions to be lifted. They are grateful for the opportunity that Wilkes is giving to its athletes, as other schools and teams are unable to compete.

"This season is looking to be a bit challenging because of COVID, and it's going to be super rushed," senior Justin Burda said. "Given the circumstances, I've chosen not to rely on times as goals this year, but rather push for more qualitative tangibles and get back to mindfulness in the pool."

Limouze is taking advantage of this unique opportunity and is getting to prepare each athlete for what lies ahead. The competition dynamic may have changed, but the opportunity to get in the water keeps the team going.

"We have more practice options to decrease headcount in the pool, and that means we have the ability to individualize a little bit more," Limouze said. "It's not the same as racing (other teams) in person, but it's still a chance to race."

During these small-group and one-on-



Photos: The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Junior Trey Harloff powered through the last 25 meters of his 200 IM repeats during practice.

one practices, Limouze has gotten to see the drive that swimmers have to get back into the pool.

"The swimmers are excited to get back at it," Limouze said. "To me, they're looking pretty good."

All athletes on campus, including swimmers, are yearning to get back into the competition season as the anticipation has been building.

With the meets being virtually assessed, Wilkes' swim teams are surely encapsulating the term "team," as each individual is pushing each other to be better in and out of the water. The goal of this season is to build as individuals, which leads to building as a team. This season, the athletes are going to have to be there for each other during meets, as no fans will be in attendance.

Swimmers, and student-athletes alike, who tested positive for COVID-19 in the fall have to go through a "return-to-play" protocol established by our athletic trainers to ensure that they will be healthy and safe when they return to their sport.

"The team is in an interesting position, just like many other teams this year," Burda said. "Several of our swimmers are out until they can get EKG testing done and get cleared to swim."

Due to the various regulations surrounding playing a sport during a pandemic, the NCAA has allowed athletes to declare an extra year of eligibility. Along

with the condensed season, there is also a number of athletes who are unable to participate due to COVID-19 restrictions.

"Because we won't be losing a year of eligibility and I will be having a fifth year, I have been lifting quite a bit to keep mass on," Burda said. "I've also spent a lot of time coordinating with my coach to make sure I can make it to as many practices as possible."

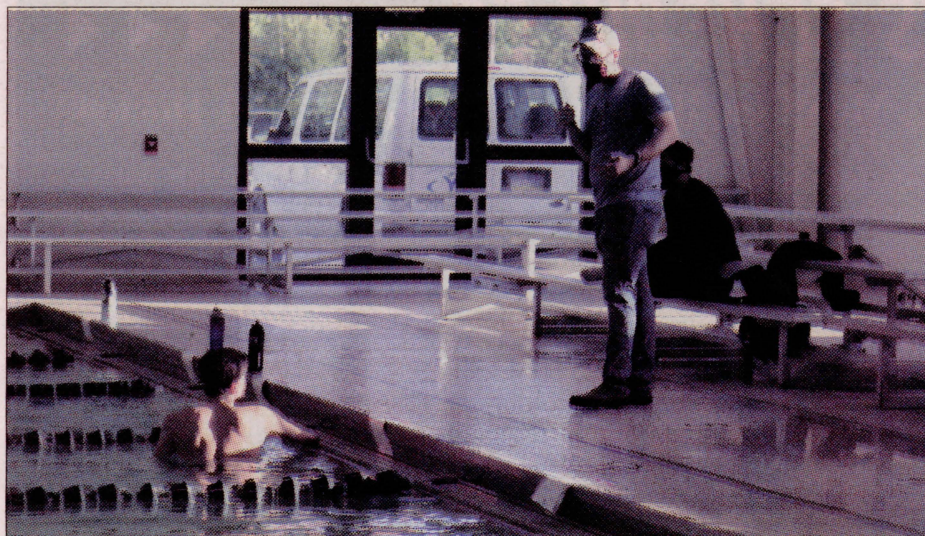
More swimmers than Burda have been taking advantage of the opportunity to compete, like senior Abby Keating.

"I am going to be swimming next year as well," Keating said. "My goal for this season is to make the most of the virtual season and to make sure the seniors that are graduating have the best season ever."

In terms of talent, Wilkes' swim teams are looking toward a rewarding season. The upperclassmen are confident in their new teammates.

"We have an awesome women's freshman team that will allow us to keep the same numbers from last semester," Keating said. "In terms of the men's newcomers, we only have three, but they will bring a lot to the team in terms of talent."

The structure of this season may be different, but the drive that these athletes have remains the same.



Coach Thomas Limouze instructed sophomore Liam White during practice on how to improve his form to achieve a faster time.



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WBB: DeSales bested Colonels in back-to-back contests

By Beacon Sports Staff

The Colonels returned to the court on Thursday and Friday last week when they opened the season with a home-and-home series with DeSales. Wilkes came up short in both games, losing 79-55 and 68-44.

Despite the rough start to the season, the Colonels are seizing the opportunity to play basketball safely under the current COVID-19 environment.

“Take advantage of every opportunity you get because it could be taken away at any point,” head coach Tara Macciocco said. “I hope that is the mentality we have moving forward. This is a very unique situation.”

Wilkes kept things close in the first half of game one with a solid performance on defense, but ultimately shots started falling for the Bulldogs.

“I can’t control if the ball goes in the basket,” Smicherko said. “The one thing I can control is how I play defense, the rebounds I get and helping out my teammates.”

Smicherko had a balanced game for Wilkes, totaling six points, two rebounds and three assists in the opener.

Even though they lost, the Colonels saw positives to take away from the game.

“I love when I have four other girls with the same amount of energy that I have, as well as all the energy that comes from the bench,” said Kelley.

Another positive for the Colonels was the debut of first-year point guard Julia Marino, who played over 20 minutes in her first collegiate game.

Game two was more of the same, except

DeSales used its home court to jump out to a large lead in the first half.

Kelley shined with 17 points, despite the Colonels’ struggles as a whole on the offensive end.

The Colonels will have a bye-week on the week of Feb. 15 before having another two-game series with FDU-Florham starting on Feb. 25.

Wilkes will be home on Friday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. A live stream for the game can be found at gowilkesu.com.



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Senior forward Gabby Smicherko scanned the court for an open teammate in Wilkes’ season opener against DeSales on Feb. 11.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

DeSales 68, Wilkes 44 (Game 1)

DESALES (68) -- Amelia Saunders 6 5-7 17, Averi Jordan 5 2-4 12, Lindsey Welsh 4 0-0 9, Rylie Rittenhouse 2 2-4 7, Mikaela Reese 2 3-4 7, Isabel Caruso 3 0-0 7, Grace Kelleher 2 0-0 4, Maria Newsome 1 0-0 3, Leah Hodick 1 0-0 2, Olivia Scotti 0 0-0 0, Kate Early 0 0-0 0. Totals 26 12-19 68.

WILKES (44) -- Maddie Kelley 6 2-3 17, Gabby Smicherko 2 3-4 7, Katelyn Kinczel 2 0-0 6, Julia Marino 1 2-2 5, Brenna Babcock 2 0-0 4, Ariel Reed 1 0-0 2, Baylee Guedes 1 0-0 2, Kendra Smith 0 1-2 1, Brianna Horton 0 0-0 0, Erin Shober 0 0-0 0, Juliann Duignam 0 0-0 0, Tess Edwards 0 0-0 0, Katie Johns 0 0-0 0. Totals 15 8-11 44.

DeSales’ 17’ 18’ 20’ 13 -- 68

Wilkes’ 10’ 7’ 10’ 17 -- 44

Three-point goals -- DS 4 (Welsh, Rittenhouse, Caruso, Newsome); WIL 6 (Kelley 3, Kinczel 2, Marino).

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▶▶▶▶▶ WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES ◀◀◀◀◀

Men’s Basketball	Women’s Basketball	Men’s Ice Hockey	Women’s Ice Hockey
02/11 @ DeSales, L 99-55 02/12 vs. DeSales, L 77-43 02/18 vs. Arcadia, 7 p.m. 02/19 @ Arcadia, 7 p.m. 02/25 @ FDU-Florham, 7 p.m. 02/26 vs. FDU-Florham, 7 p.m. 03/04 vs. Delaware Valley, 7 p.m. 03/05 @ Delaware Valley, 7 p.m.	02/11 vs. DeSales, L 79-55 02/12 @ DeSales, L 68-44 02/25 vs. FDU-Florham, 7 p.m. 02/26 @ FDU-Florham, 7 p.m. 03/04 @ Delaware Valley, 7 p.m. 03/05 vs. Delaware Valley, 7 p.m. 03/11 @ Misericordia, 7 p.m. 03/12 vs. Misericordia, 7 p.m.	02/19 vs. Utica, 6:45 p.m. 02/20 @ Utica, 7 p.m. 02/26 @ Stevenson, 7 p.m. 03/05 @ Nazareth, 5 p.m. 03/06 vs. Nazareth, 5 p.m. 03/14 @ Manhattanville, 5 p.m. 03/19 vs. Elmira, 5 p.m. 03/20 @ Elmira, 7 p.m. 03/26 vs. Neumann, 5 p.m. 03/27 vs. Chatham, 7 p.m.	02/19 @ Alvernia, POSTPONED 02/20 vs. Alvernia, POSTPONED 02/26 @ Chatham, 3 p.m. 02/28 vs. Chatham, 3:30 p.m. 03/05 vs. Manhattanville, 5 p.m. 03/06 @ Manhattanville, TBA 03/12 vs. Utica, 5 p.m. 03/13 @ Utica, 2 p.m. 03/19 @ Elmira, 6 p.m. 03/20 vs. Elmira, 3:30 p.m. 03/26 @ Nazareth, 5 p.m. 03/28 vs. Nazareth, 3:30 p.m.

MBB, from frontcover

The first-year students, like Jason Eberhart, Trent Fisher and Jackson Shafer, have shown some flashes throughout the opening games. Despite Eberhart being the only first-year in the starting lineup, both Shafer and Fisher are contributing significant minutes to the team from the bench.

“I mean everyone tells you the higher level of play, the faster the game gets and everyone is much stronger,” Fisher said. “I feel like I’ve transitioned pretty well after playing.”

“You need to have that mindset to get better every time, and there’s no time to slack off. Every time they come down the court, you need to be ready for anything.”

In game number one, it was first-year guard Zachary Gula who made a notable impact by leading Wilkes on the offensive end with 15 points. Unfortunately for Gula and the Colonels, he did not have the same production in the second game against the Bulldogs.

After dropping the first game, Wilkes had a sluggish start in game number two, trailing 11-1 in the opening minutes of the game. The Colonels struggled in the paint as well, getting outscored 32-8 in game two.

“As a team, we got some pretty good stops. (In game one) we got stomped on, and we wanted to respond and be a little more physical and that was really a point of emphasis,” Collier said. “As a returning player, I try to lead by example, play a little more physical and get my hand on



The Beacon/Kirsten Peters

Wilkes head coach Izzi Metz talked to starting guard Sean Collier in the middle of Wilkes’ home opener against DeSales on Feb. 12.

some basketballs.”

Collier led the Colonels with three steals in an attempt to keep the Colonel offense alive.

Timmy Edwards dominated both games for DeSales, leading his team with an average of 25.5 points across both games.

“We want to improve in all facets of the game before we take on Arcadia,” Wilkes coach Izzi Metz said. “Our rebounding

continues to need improvement offensively and defensively. I think our shotmaking will continue to improve as our conditioning improves as well.”

Despite the back-to-back losses to open the season, Metz and the Colonels are moving forward to their next opponent.

“I think we need to be a really big presence next week and impose our will on them,” Shafer said. “Against DeSales, they were able to have whatever they

wanted, and we kind of let them. That’ll be a key for us this week coming into the game.”

The Colonels return to the court on Thursday at 7 p.m. against Arcadia. No fans are allowed in attendance; however, a live stream of the game will be broadcasted on gowilkesu.com.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

DeSales 77, Wilkes 43 (Game 2)

DESALLES (77) -- Timmy Edwards 8 4-8 20, Elijah Eberly 3 0-0 11, Jordan Holmqvist 3 2-2 11, Darnell Vaughan Jr. 3 0-0 7, Aidan Ellwood 2 0-2 6, Mason Barnes 2 0-0 5, Christian Guldin 2 0-0 5, Keba Mitchell 1 2-2 4, Ryan Boylan 1 0-0 3, Dat Lambert 1 0-0 3, Will Pollick 0 2-2 2. Totals 26 15-21 77.

WILKES (43) -- Drake Marshall 5 0-3 12, Trent Fisher 2 5-5 9, Donovan Breeding 3 1-2 8, Sean Collier 2 1-2 7, Jackson Shafer 1 0-0 3, Jason Eberhart 0 2-2 2, Zachary Gula 0 2-4 2, Landon Henry 0 0-0 0, Cooper Chaffee 0 0-0 0, Matthew Davidheiser 0 0-0 0, Jack Bova 0 0-0 0, Nickerson DeMelfi 0 0-0 0, Bradley Anacreon 0 0-0 0, Trystan Griffith 0 0-0 0. Totals 13 11-18 43.

DeSales’ 35’ 42 -- 77

Wilkes’ 22’ 21 -- 43

Three-point goals -- DS 10 (Holmqvist 3, Ellwood 2, Boylan, Vaughan, Guldin, Barnes, Lambert); WIL 6 (Marshall 2, Collier 2, Breeding, Shafer).



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WINTER SPORTS SCHEDULES

Men’s and Women’s Swimming

Both men’s and women’s swimming will be competing virtually this season due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This means there are no official dates set for contests. The swimmers will race in their home pools and upload their times virtually for scoring.

Men’s Volleyball

- 02/24 vs. Alvernia, 7 p.m.
- 02/27 @ Stevens, TBA
- 02/27 @ Stevens, TBA
- 03/03 @ Alvernia, 7 p.m.
- 03/06 vs. Stevenson, noon
- 03/06 vs. Stevenson, 2 p.m.
- 03/10 vs. Misericordia, 7 p.m.
- 03/13 @ Arcadia, TBA
- 03/13 @ Arcadia, TBA
- 03/17 @ Misericordia, 7 p.m.
- 03/24 @ Eastern, 7 p.m.
- 03/27 vs. Widener, 11 a.m.
- 03/27 vs. Widener, 1 p.m.
- 03/31 vs. Eastern, 7 p.m.
- 04/03 @ Messiah, 1 p.m.
- 04/03 @ Messiah, 3 p.m.

Wrestling

- 02/20 vs. Delaware Valley, noon
- 03/07 vs. Alvernia, noon



The Beacon/Ariel Reed

Getting to know...

Landon Henry

Senior Basketball Player

The Beacon: Male Senior Spotlight

Why Landon Henry was selected: Even with his injury-riddled seasons, Henry has been a vocal, academic and physical leader on the court. His tireless efforts to continuously improve his team has led to success in recent years and earned him this selection.

Name: Landon Henry
Year: Senior
Major: Mathematics & Secondary Education
Hometown: Hughesville, Pa.
High School: Hughesville H.S.
Position: Guard

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

Outside of playing basketball, I enjoy watching sports, "Survivor," "The Bachelor" or new movies. I also enjoy spending time with my friends.

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

Wilkes provided me with an opportunity to really grow as a person in being able to pursue a rewarding career path while being part of a distinguished culture in our basketball team here.

Favorite building on campus?

My favorite building on campus is the Farley Library because of the 4.0 station.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

After graduation, I plan to become a high school mathematics teacher and basketball coach.

What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?

My favorite is orange.

Favorite memory as a Colonel?

My favorite memories are from my freshman year dorm room in Waller Hall, Room 27A.

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

John Bamford because he is jack of all trades.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

My hope for the season is to put our best foot forward each day as a collective group.

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

If I could have dinner with any famous person from the past, I would have to pick Kobe Bryant.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I began playing in first grade because I fell in love watching the game.

Most influential person in your life?

My mom is the most influential person in my life.

If you had to choose one thing about your program that you could improve, what would it be?

If I could change one thing about our program, it would be more locker room space.

A quote you live your life by?

"In a world where you can be anything, be kind."

Anyone to give a shout-out to?

Zach Walser.

– Compiled by Ariel Reed, Sports Editor

Getting to know...

Gabby Smicherko

Senior Basketball Player

The Beacon: Female Senior Spotlight

Why Gabby Smicherko was selected: Smicherko has been one of the most valuable assets to the Colonel offense during her four years on the roster. Her speed, dedication and drive to be the best at her sport punched the ticket for this selection.

Name: Gabby Smicherko
Year: Senior
Major: Pharmacy
Hometown: Edwarsville, Pa.
High School: Wyoming Valley West
Position: Forward

I was in first grade, and I have loved it ever since.

If you had to choose one thing about your program that you could improve, what would it be?

The women's basketball program has greatly improved since my freshman year. I hope the program continues to grow and gain the respect it deserves.

Other interests or hobbies off of the field?

Outside of basketball, I enjoy eating, road trips and spending time with friends and family.

Favorite building on campus?
Cohen Science Center.

What color/flavor of Gatorade is your favorite?
Cool Blue.

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

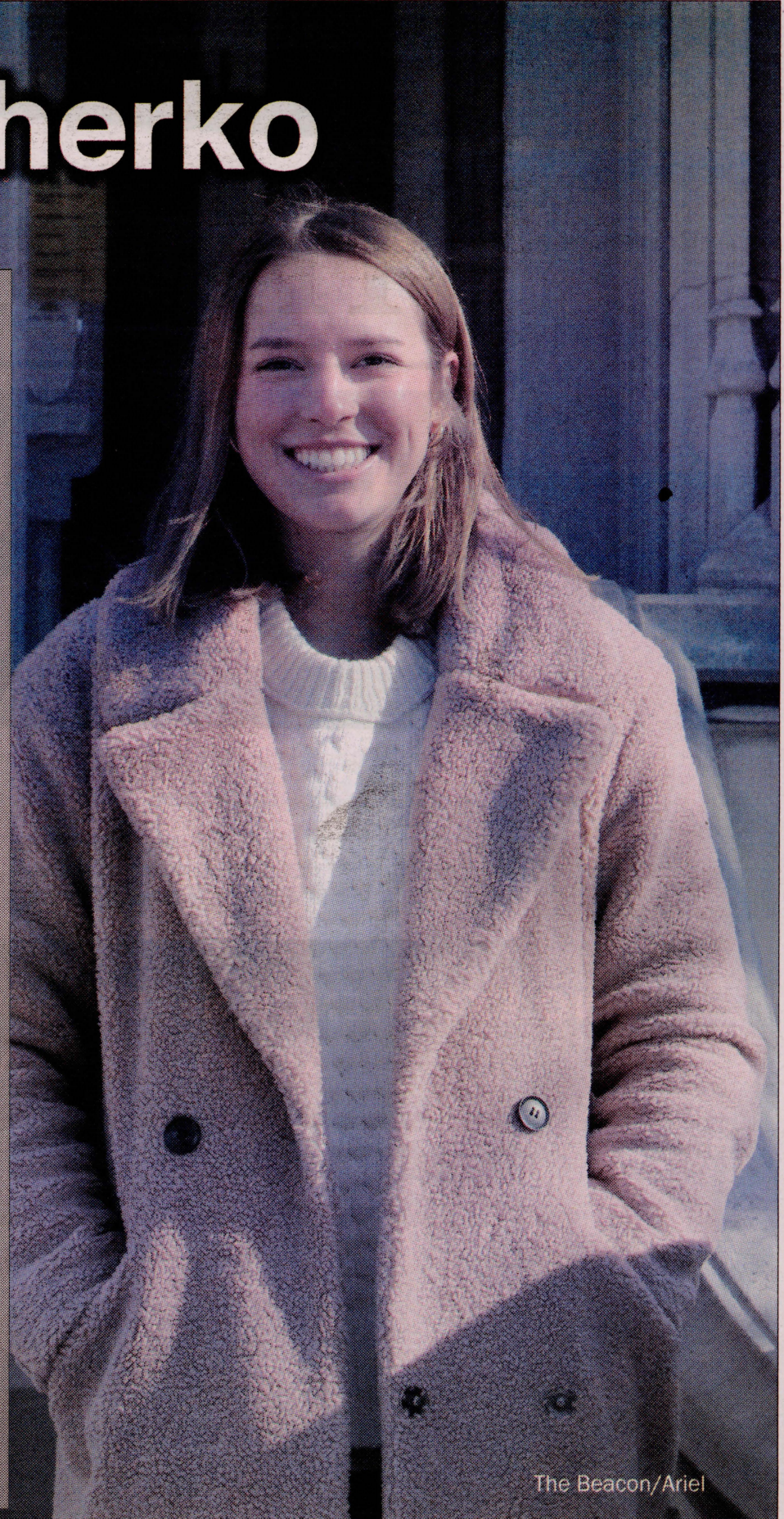
If you could have dinner with a famous person from the past, who would it be?
Alex Trebek.

Most influential person in your life?
My parents are the most influential people in my life.

A quote you live your life by?
"What is for you will not pass you."

Anyone to give a shout-out to?
The dawgs, of course.

– Compiled by Ariel Reed, Sports Editor



The Beacon/Ariel

Driving force for your decision to come to Wilkes?

I decided to come to Wilkes because it had everything I was looking for. I wanted to attend a smaller university that allowed me the opportunity to play basketball and also receive a great education.

Post-graduation plans in terms of a career?

With two more years left in pharmacy school, I am unsure where I will end up after I graduate. I hope the next two years of school will help me to figure out where pharmacy will take me, as there are so many opportunities.

Favorite memory as a Colonel?

I have so many great memories at Wilkes – it is too hard to choose just one.

Hopes for this season as a Colonel?

This season, I hope we are able to play all of our scheduled games. We are fortunate enough to have some type of season, and I hope we take advantage of this opportunity. I hope we improve each game, and I hope to end with a winning season.

When/Why did you first begin playing?

I have an older brother and two older sisters who played basketball. I remember going to all of their games, traveling to tournaments and playing with them in the driveway. I officially started playing when

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THE BEACON

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