



THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

Are snow days a thing of the past? Students chime in.



By Adam Grundt
Asst. Sports Editor

Ah, snow days.

What used to be the highlight of our days in grade school, now receives mixed reviews from some students. As the years go by, folks seem to outgrow the snow day.

Me? I don't think I could ever. To me, there's nothing like opening the curtain, seeing a foot of snow and laying around all day watching my favorite comfort show or playing video games.

Now, after high school and the pandemic, there really is no such thing as a "snow day."

Since COVID-19 and the pandemic seemingly shifted everything virtual, online instruction has become more prevalent. Although it could be a safer option in the event of a snow day, some professors will often shift their instruction from in person to virtual, and teach the class over Zoom. Long story short, some instructors still give students the day off due to weather, others just shift the way they instruct.

On Nov. 22, Wilkes University saw its first snowfall of the season, which led to a virtual closure.
Photo by Sydney Allabaugh

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News

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

Student Government notes: Nov. 20 weekly meeting

By Kayla Bicskei
News Staff Writer

Student Government held its tenth weekly meeting of the Fall 2024 semester on Nov. 20. This meeting addressed funding requests, club reports, Club of the Month voting and the Casino Night event analysis.

The Student Government treasurer began the meeting with an updated Student Government budget report of \$8,200.

The Multicultural Student Coalition followed the treasury report with their week two of two funding requests.

The Multicultural Student Coalition works to bring together all students and provide education as well as experience with different cultures. The coalition is bringing five of its executive board members and 16 students to a 76ers basketball game.

The coalition is currently working with a representative of the 76ers team to secure a total of 21 tickets to the game.

The student trip will take place on Jan. 24 during the Spring 2025 semester and they will travel to the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia, Pa. For students who are interested in attending the trip, the Multicultural Student Coalition will be hosting a two-day scavenger hunt around campus. If a student finds a

scavenger hunt item, they will be given the opportunity to attend the 76ers game.

At the game, students will be given a glimpse into sports management careers as well as speaking with others at the game about diversity statistics and how to improve them.

The Coalition is requesting a total of \$1,080 to help fund the 21 tickets to the basketball game along with transportation costs.

The Student Government voted to allocate the full \$1,080 to the Multicultural Student Coalition for the trip.

The next presentation was held by the Student Government president. She showed potential updates of Ross Hall for her week one of two funding requests.

Ross Hall is currently under renovation to become a new building for clubs around campus to hold their supplies or host their meetings. Currently, the walls of the building are a bare white color, but the Student Government is working to cover the walls with Wilkes University themed murals and large stickers.

The Student Government president is requesting a total of \$1,200 for the updates to the walls of Ross Hall. She will return next week for her week two of two funding requests.

The following item on the agenda was the nomination and voting for Club of

the Month for November. Four clubs were nominated by Student Government General Board members.

After the voting was completed, the Pre-Professional Health Society was declared as Club of the Month for November.

The Casino Night event analysis was presented by a Student Government executive board member. The representative reported that all 200 hoodies were given away during the Tuesday pop-up giveaway and all 150 beanies were given away between the Ross Hall soft opening event and the Casino Night event.

The representative along with the rest of Student Government discussed the Casino Night event and decided that there could have been some small improvements to the event but it was an overall success.

The Student Government Executive Board reported that they reviewed and approved the club reports of the Chess Club, Space and Astronomy Club and Geo Explorers Club.

Student Government did not meet for committee work this week and adjourned the meeting after their presentation of club reports.

Student Government will meet for their last meeting of the Fall 2024 semester on Dec. 4.

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Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: emma.broda@wilkes.edu

Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

Compiled by Beacon News Staff

Peppermint Milkshake Giveaway

Student Government's Class of 2026 will give out free milkshakes on Dec. 5 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the SUB.

White Elephant Bingo

Programming Board will host a white elephant bingo on Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. in the JPAC.

Attendees who come dressed in their best winter pajamas will receive an extra bingo board.

Movie/Game Night

The first-year class will host a movie and game night on Dec. 6 from 6 to 9 pm. In the JPAC. Attendees can bring blankets, sip on hot chocolate, eat popcorn and relax before finals week.

All attendees will also automatically be entered to win a door prize.

Post-election, what is next for the United States?

Dr. Benjamin Toll, associate professor of political science explains

By Emma Broda
News Editor

It was clear that the 2024 presidential election would be extremely important for the future of politics and explain the current electorate, regardless of the result. Presidential elections can tell us a lot about what is going on in politics, what Americans are concerned about and how our country's leaders are behaving.

Before examining the other implications of the election, it's important to look at the behavior of American voters in this election.

Dr. Benjamin Toll, associate professor of political science, provided his perspective on this topic as a political scientist.

He first talked about support for Donald Trump.

"We have seen overwhelming evidence that President Trump has a very solid base of support throughout the country," Dr. Toll said. "The people that support him have been strong supporters for quite some time. The Democrat coalition has only been able to defeat him once in the three times he has run for president. However, candidates that try to be like Trump often have difficulty.

There is something different about President Trump that captivates the hearts and minds of many voters."

This conservative support is something we are able to see locally too with the 8th Congressional District flipping red after having a Democrat in office since 2013. Many local elections across Luzerne County and other neighboring counties have also seen Democratic incumbents losing to their Republican challengers.

The election also showed us a lot about Democratic voters and why Kamala Harris performed the way she did in the polls.

"Vice President Harris was not able to connect with the average voter in the way that President Trump was

able to do," Dr. Toll said. "Further, an unpopular president with an economy that does not feel recovered (from COVID) to many Americans made it difficult for her to be successful.

There is evidence indicating that outside of battleground states, Trump picked up an average of 6.5% compared to 2020, but in battleground states that was only 3.4%. This suggests that all the campaigning done in battleground states by Harris actually broke through some (but not enough)."

We have seen that the Democratic party has been quite disconnected from one another, and the results of this election was a reminder of that fact. Many political scientists, and Americans in general, are talking about what is going to come next for the party.

"In general, Democrats have moved toward the middle after a loss and Republicans have moved further to the right," Dr. Toll said. "What this suggests is that while many on the progressive wing will want the Democrats to move to the left, they will likely move to the

right. They already tried to do this on immigration, with the failed bill in the summer of 2024. But, it is likely to be the case that they nominate a moderate candidate in 2028."

This idea is very important and shows how important the 2024 election was. The Democratic party we saw in this election will likely not be the same in 2028 if they wish to succeed.

Most, if not all, Americans have their own opinions on the results of the 2024 election and what it means for the future. There is a vast array of opinions, some being moderate with others being very extreme. Academics have been paying close attention to what the results of the election could mean for government and politics in the future as well as American society in general.

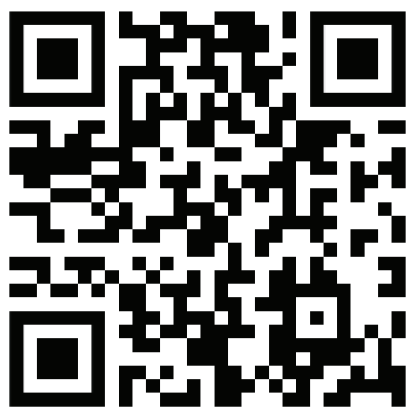
"We will see a lot of conversations about the limits of executive action over the next four years," Dr. Toll said. "We are already seeing a cabinet that will be comprised of people who have spent a considerable amount of time on Fox News, so there will be a lot of 'made

for TV' policy. In general, the main questions will be how far President Trump tries to go with his campaign promises. And, most importantly, how far do the Republicans in Congress agree with him."

Dr. Toll also shared what many are saying about the future electorate based on what they are seeing currently.

"The electorate in 2026 will be very different," he said. "The strong base of Trump voters did not vote in 2018 and 2022, which would suggest they would not show up again in 2026. So, the electorate is still a bit of a mystery as to how we can predict future behavior given that President Trump will no longer be on the ballot and his appeal is so personal for voters."

Of course, we cannot know for sure what the government and politics will look like exactly in the next few years. That being said, the results of the 2024 election can tell us a lot about what to look for in the next four years and what the next presidential election may look like.



FOR MORE
ELECTION
COVERAGE,
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WWW.THEWILKESBEACON.COM

Wilkes University GSA holds fundraiser at Barnes & Noble

By Leah Smith
Asst. Opinion Editor

The Wilkes Gender and Sexuality Alliance recently held a fundraiser at the Wilkes-Barre Barnes and Noble located at Arena Plaza.

Upon entering the building, GSA president Morgan Steiner handed out slips of paper that would honor the fundraiser after making a purchase from either the bookstore or Starbucks cafe. A portion of the proceeds would go to GSA after any purchase was made.

Steiner was excited to hold this fundraiser and was inspired by the club's faculty adviser, Helen Davis, who previously held a Barnes and Noble fundraiser for her child's school.

"We're holding this fundraiser because we want to be able to do more things as a club," Steiner said. "We want to come up with more events."

She added that she hoped people would want to read more after attending the event.

With the paranoia of what the future

holds for LGBTQ+ individuals, she hopes that many people can find something fun or something they would enjoy with potentially trying times ahead.



Photos by Leah Smith

GSA President Morgan Steiner holding up GSA fundraiser paper slips.



My purchases to advocate for the GSA: the Fall 2024 edition of Fangoria magazine and the compact comic edition of "Harley Quinn & the Gotham City Sirens" by Paul Dini.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR...

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President Cant announces 2024 holiday card contest winner

Maria Gonzalez reveals the inspiration for her winning design

By Andrew Marshall
News/Sports Staff Writer

It may be hard to believe, but the fall semester is nearing its conclusion, meaning the holiday season is here. The start of the holiday season means it is time for a Wilkes University tradition: the holiday card contest.

Last month, President Greg Cant announced that the fifth annual Wilkes holiday card contest would be held. The deadline to enter a submission was Nov. 18. Voting for the winning design was held until Nov. 20.

When the contest began, it was announced that the winner would receive a gift pack that included gift cards for Amazon, Target and Starbucks, as well as some Wilkes swag.

Cant announced the winner on his Instagram page on Nov. 25. The winner for the contest this year was Maria Gonzalez, a senior biochemistry student and international student from Panama.

Gonzalez' design featured a group of people around a campfire, including the

statue of John Wilkes. The design is also accompanied by snow and a snowman.

"With my little design, I wanted to illustrate how Wilkes, represented by the iconic John Wilkes statue, has played a special role in not only my life, but also in the lives of so many students," Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez cited her Wilkes community as inspiration for the contest winning design.

"The faculty and staff, like the statue itself, have been an important part helping to brighten our days and guide us through our academic process," she said.

"I tried my best to create a design that reflected that support we receive and the sense of community that at least I have felt at Wilkes."

At right: Maria Gonzalez and Dr. Cant with the winning card design.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Cant



Coming up in 2025, Club Day 2.0 returns to campus

By Brady Melovitz
Layout Designer

Club Day is an event where all clubs on campus gather in one place to recruit new members. However, what makes Club Day 2.0 in the spring different from its counterpart in the fall?

The Student Government Executive President Nolee Ana Grabowski believes there really is only one key difference between both Club Days aside from where they are held.

"The purpose of Club Day 2.0 is to allow any transfer students, students who just want to get involved or students who missed the opportunity to attend in the fall one more chance to see what our university has to offer with clubs," Grabowski said.

The Student Government Vice

President Marytere Quintana-Avila believes that Club Day is also important just for the clubs to show off what they have to offer.

"Club Day is the biggest opportunity where student leaders have the chance to showcase what their club is all about and highlight their passion and commitment and commitment to their organizations," Quintana-Avila said.

Nolee Ana said the event this year will be the first time where they will have pizza as the primary food option.

While they didn't say exactly where it's from, Quintana-Avila did provide a hint as to where; they will reveal that information when it becomes available.

"No spoilers because you'll have to wait and see what we have to offer on our @wilkesg Instagram account, but what I will say is this year we are

promoting two local small businesses from the Wyoming Valley Area," she said.

Unlike Club Day in the fall, Club Day 2.0 will not be held on the Greenway but instead will be held in the McHale Athletic Center.

Last semester Club Day was host to over 40 different clubs on Campus.

For those who are on the fence about Club Day 2.0, Quintana-Avila had advice for them to consider.

"Definitely come out and check out what Club day 2.0 has to offer," Quintana-Avila said.

"It's an incredible way for students to learn about all the different ways they can participate in student life and grow as student leaders. We have lots of different organizations and if they don't see a club that they want to join

they can be inspired to start their own.

"Club Day 2.0 is the perfect first step in getting involved on campus, and if all else fails it's a great way to engage with the campus community and meet some new people while eating free food!"

For more information regarding this upcoming event, be on the lookout for posters around campus that will reveal more information about the event such as the date and time of Club Day 2.0.

Also be sure to check out the Student Government Instagram at @wilkesg as more information will be made available on their social media in the upcoming weeks.

Merriment comes to doors throughout campus

Students deck the halls, or at least their doors, and spread some holiday spirit

Photos by Shannon Slominski
Special to the Beacon



Life, Arts & Entertainment

Have any events or artists to be shared? Contact Life, Arts & Entertainment assistant editor: anthony.cazun@wilkes.edu

Wilkes theatre productions bring variety to the spring

By Kailey Vogel

Contributing Writer

This spring semester, the Wilkes University Theatre Department will be putting on productions of the musical “Between the Lines,” by Timothy Allen McDonald, and the Shakespearean play, “As You Like It.”

To start the semester off, the department will work on “Between the Lines,” a musical adaptation of the novel by the same name. The musical was written by Timothy Allen McDonald with the score and lyrics composed and written by Kate Anderson and Elyssa Samsel.

This book was originally written by Jodi Picoult and covers a teenage girl, Delilah, who escapes her harsh reality at school through the comfort of literature, only to find that her favorite fairy tales are coming to life.

Cally Williams, sophomore musical

theatre major, expressed their enthusiasm for “Between The Lines.”

“I’m excited that we’re featuring more shows by female playwrights,” Williams said. “There is also LGBTQ representation in the musical which I think is awesome and super important.

In general though, it’s a super fun show. I like to describe it as ‘fairytales meet “Mean Girls.”’”

As someone very interested in costuming, Williams said that they’re “excited to see how these shows are going to be costumed, especially with the fairytale and fantasy aspect of ‘Between the Lines.’”

This musical will take place in the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center for the Performing Arts from Feb. 20 through Feb. 23.

Williams also shared their thoughts on the upcoming production of “As You Like It.”

“It is of course an older show, written

by William Shakespeare,” Williams said. “I’m also excited to do a Shakespeare show and work on it in an academic setting where I can explore the text and historical background,” they said.

“As You Like It” will undergo its rehearsal process shortly after the closing of “Between The Lines.” This play subverts the traditional rules of romance. Gender roles, nature and politics are confused in a play that reflects on how confusing yet enjoyable life can be.

Taking place in the late 16th century, the play follows the exile of Duke Senior into the Forest of Arden. His daughter, Rosalind is banished by Duke Fredrick not long after, causing her to leave with his daughter Celia. The cousins switch genders, disguising themselves as men, to go venture into the forest in search of Rosalind’s father.

As more characters find themselves in the forest, Shakespeare utilizes all

his elements of Romantic Comedy to deliver love, lessons and many laughs.

This play will take place in the Dorothy Dickson Dart Center for the Performing Arts from April 10 through April 13.

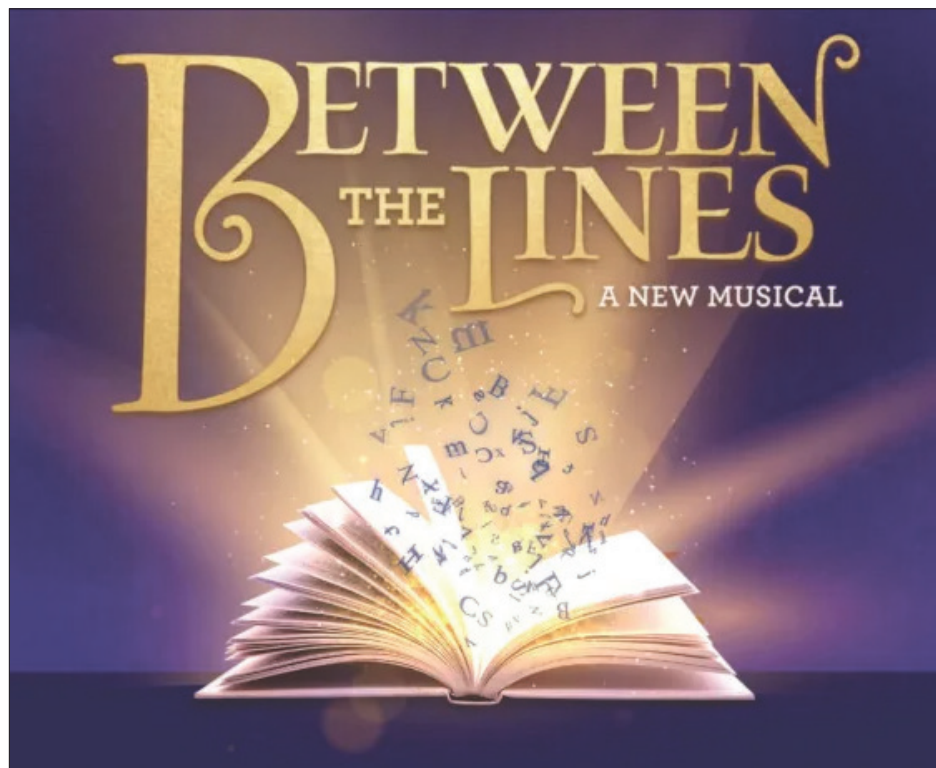
Williams said they were, “excited to do two shows that are so drastically different.”

All theater productions are free for Wilkes University students.

If you are interested in auditioning for either show, auditions for “As You Like It” are being held on Dec. 4 and “Between the Lines” auditions are on Dec. 5.

“Theatre also gives us a chance to share stories that aren’t often told,” Williams said. “Theatre can help us express important thoughts and topics to audiences.”

For more information on how to get involved, contact Dr. Jon Liebetrau.





Sydney Allabaugh:
Thought I Was Dead -
Tyler, the Creator, ScHoolboy Q,
Santigold

Stephen Youkoski:
Waterloo - ABBA

Megan Davis:
Juna - Clairo

Emma Broda
Roman Holiday - Fontaines D.C.

Sam Mullen:
Sounds of Someday - Radio
Company

Adam Grundt:
Babydoll - Dominic Fike

Leah Smith:
This Fire - Killswitch Engage

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

PROGRAMMING BOARD EVENTS

FALL 2024

Techno Bingo 8/29
Field Day 9/5
**Are You Smarter Than
a Fifth Grader?** 9/12
Fiesta 9/19
Giveaway #1 9/26
Blockbuster Bingo 10/3
Wilkestober Fest 10/17

Sound Showdown 10/24
Freak Week 10/28-10/31
Comedian 11/7
Chillax Bingo 11/14
Giveaway #2 11/21
**White Elephant
Bingo** 12/5

EVENTS. EVERY. THURSDAY.

Finals Week Self Care Tips

**Finals week can be stressful!
It's important to take care of ourselves!**

.....

Get enough sleep



Sleep is important and good for memory consolidation. Make sure you aim to get at least 7-8 hours of good sleep!

Stay Organized

Organization is key! To keep everything organized, set agendas and to-do list to keep yourself, your classes and of course your mind organized! Planners or digital calendars are great for organization!



Take Breaks

**TAKE
a
BREAK**

Although it's easy to get wrapped up in all of your work, make sure breaks are being prioritized. Take brain breaks, take a walk outside, meditate, or even have a quick dance party!

Be Sure to Unwind at Night!

Once you finish studying, take time for yourself! Watch your favorite show, play your favorite games, or have fun with your different hobbies!



The Wilkes University Counseling Center is located on the second floor of Passan Hall at 267 South Franklin Street across from the Arnaud C. Marts Sports and Conference Center.

Students can schedule an appointment Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by contacting office assistant Laura Cease: 570-408-4100
laura.cease@wilkes.edu

The Wilkes University Support Line 570-408-CHAT (2428) is available 24/7 for any student crisis.

In the event of an emergency, please contact Wilkes University Police Department at 570-408-4999 or 911.

The Sordoni Art Gallery hosts "Bark at the Gallery"

SPCA of Luzerne County brings adoptable dogs

By Kailey Vogel
Contributing Writer



On Nov. 21, students came to the Sordoni Art Gallery to pet adoptable dogs provided by SPCA of Luzerne County. Pictured: Ralph soaking up all the attention from students.



Student Meghan Sandt, first-year Neuroscience major, falls in love with dog at Sordoni's Bark at the Gallery event.



One dog, Bronson, enjoying his time at the Sordoni Art Gallery.



Junior English major Sydney Ahrberg and 5-year-old puppy, Ralph, enjoying all the love from students during club hours.

Word Search

HOLIDAY EDITION

- Santa Claus

stockings

Kwanzaa

candle

ornament

snowflake

reindeer

mistletoe

sleigh

wreath
- Christmas

Hanukkah

dreidel

cookies

winter

bells

elf

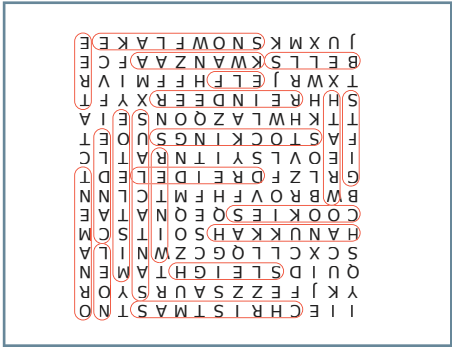
gifts

noel

tree

I I E C H R I S T M A S T N O
Y K J F E Z Z S A U R S Y O R
Q U I D S L E I G H T A M E N
S C X C L L Q G C Z W N I L A
H A N U K K A H S O I T S C M
C O O K I E S Q E Q N A T A E
B W B R O V F H F M T C L N N
G R L Z F D R E I D E L E D T
I E O V L S Y I T N R A T L C
F A S T O C K I N G S U O E T
T T K H W L A Z Q O N S E I A
S H H R E I N D E E R X Y F T
T X W R J E L F H F F M I V R
B E L L S K W A N Z A A F C E
J U X M K S N O W F L A K E E

Answer Key:





By Adam Grundt
Asst. Sports Editor

ARE SNOW DAYS A THING OF THE PAST? STUDENTS CHIME IN. (CONT).

Often depending on the age of the student, one's opinion may sway one way or the other on the snow day, but overall, after speaking to a few students around campus, their views on these snow days are mixed.

"I love a good snow day," said junior pharmacy major Elayna Haring. "I personally think snow days are a good break for students, even with the online option. After COVID, we are so used to online school, and I know some students personally that feel more comfortable in that platform. I think student safety should always be a priority, so if roads are not a safe option to get to campus, I believe the school should close."

Although Wilkes takes into account the safety of the roads for the commuters, many students live on campus. A simple shift to a virtual way of learning can be easiest and not set back the classes before finals. But alas, the feeling of a snow day is something college students miss from days past.

If snow days were abolished entirely, a lot of people would be upset. Commuters and on-campus students can agree: a solid day of rest never hurts anyone. Plus, the dangers of the weather in Northeastern Pennsylvania can often cause the sidewalks to freeze, which could create hazards for students walking, or driving, to class.

Although a snow day is great every once in a while, they have their consequences. While some students are grateful for any opportunity they can get to not have class, others feel as if it sets the course back towards the end of the fall semester.

However, a common problem comes with an abundance of snow days, as we have seen in winters of the past. Too many snow days can set back the classes a student is enrolled in and could prolong the semester shortly into Christmas break. Students often love snow days but aren't aware how it could affect the remainder of their semester. Some students choose to look at it with a "glass half empty" mentality rather than the opposite of those who love their snow days.



"I think they hurt us more than help us in the fall," said senior business management student Zack Luksic. "I feel as if when we get snow days in November and December, and the teacher cancels class, it makes us feel more rushed in preparing for finals. I think that the snow days are a lot easier on the student when we get them after we return from Christmas break."

As college students, like Luksic, reach the end of their time at Wilkes, their time in class becomes more valuable towards graduation. Solid grades are important to many students at Wilkes, and if snow days play a factor at the end of the fall semester, a course's schedule could be affected. However, younger students who don't have the pressure of graduation on them often believe that snow days are great, regardless.

"I think snow days are great," said Alivia Foster, junior psychology major. "I get to catch up on my work and have an extra day to study for upcoming exams. Snow days help me with the stress of possible travel plans as well. For example, if we got a snow day towards the end of a week--

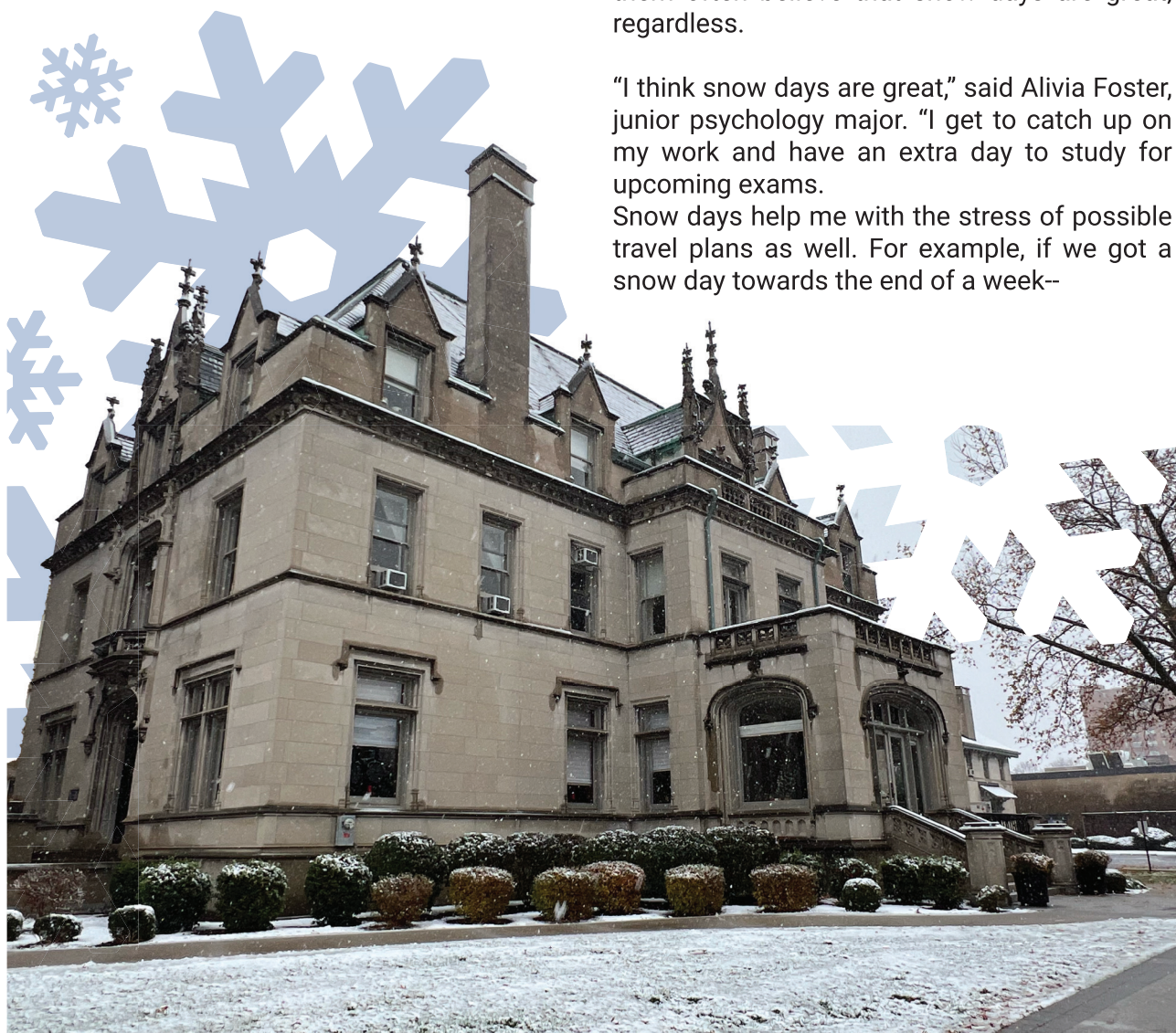
or near a holiday break, it would be beneficial to get that extra day at home after the school lets us know if we are going to have class or not due to weather. It's nice to squeeze that extra day in when the breaks feel so short."

All in all, students often have mixed reviews about snow days, but if there is one thing for certain, the feeling of a snow day is unlike any other. Spending your snow day under the covers with a cup of hot cocoa is a feeling that will be missed by all students when they are finished with their time in academics.

Some of my fondest childhood memories have been created on snow days, and I am certain that most students feel the same. With Christmas break approaching, I am especially grateful for the peace and quiet that a snow day can provide, in a time that can seem so hectic due to final exams and the end of the semester.

But the debate will always remain: do the benefits of the snow day outweigh the consequences? You decide for yourself.

Photos by
Sydney Allabaugh



Opinion

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

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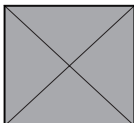
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The Beacon
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Our Voice

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

Did college students forget how to read?

It is more than likely that in recent years you may have noticed that your peers, or even yourself, are reading significantly less.

Perhaps assigned readings seem like a daunting task in your busy life, or you have gotten used to relying on online resources to summarize things for you. Or maybe you just find yourself reading for pleasure far less than you did as a kid.

What's the big deal? The big deal is that this change in reading is an issue in and of itself, but it raises questions as to why this is happening. Luckily, to students feeling guilty about reading less, the blame is not all on you.

One of the most obvious reasons for this change is the way technology has been introduced and encouraged in the lives of students. Jonathan Haidt, a social psychologist, has done a substantial amount of research on the topic of technology being introduced at a young age. He argues that because technology and the internet is being presented to children younger and younger, it is becoming a more addictive form of entertainment.

We have become far more reliant on quick entertainment through short-form content because of things like TikTok, Instagram reels or YouTube shorts. And books do not provide

that. Even books intended for recreational reading and entertainment require more commitment and attention than many are willing to give up.

Technology has also made it easier for students to be able to "read" for classes without ever actually using their brain. It is becoming increasingly easier to ask AI or websites like SparkNotes to critically think about a reading for you. This makes it even more difficult to convince students to read because they are no longer learning how to think about what they are reading.

Critical thinking and reading comprehension is a skill that you have to develop. Ideally, this is achieved throughout your education, so by the time you reach higher education.

However, professors are finding that their students are coming to college having not learned how to read effectively in high school. Less schools are requiring students to read longer texts. Not only that, but students are struggling to find the important information in texts no matter the length.

Efficient reading in college does not always mean reading each and every word of a text. In fact, it is a skill to know what the most important parts of a text are in order to

understand its argument and relevance to a broader conversation. This does not always require reading an entire book, chapter or article. Historian Karin Wulf emphasizes this and has her own method she provides to students to read efficiently.

Why all of this matters comes down to another broader debate happening, what is college for? The world around us operates in a way that emphasizes productivity with little attention being paid to education. Now it is almost expected from students in higher education that their only goal would be to walk out with a degree. If college is about earning a degree to get into a certain field and nothing else, why would students waste their time actually absorbing information and skills not deemed "marketable?"

Too many students are seeing reading comprehension and critical thinking as a waste of time because of this. If technology can (usually incorrectly) pick out information from a text, they do not see a need to do it themselves. We cannot be entirely sure what the impact of this will be, but it is clear that students reading less is weakening skills and creating even more of a reliance on technology.

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The Icebox: Reviewing mobile game “Pokémon TCG Pocket”

By “Freeze”

Opinion Staff Writer

It has been a while since the last Icebox review, but not long enough to have missed the release of a new mobile game which I believe deserves all of your attention. It is free to play, easy to learn and already very well-known at a global level. The game was released a day before Halloween and is called “Pokémon TCG Pocket.”

If you aren’t familiar with Pokémon TCG, it’s one of the leading reasons for the popularity of Pokémon. “TCG” stands for “trading card game” and like its name involves trading, collecting and battling Pokémon cards. It is one of the best ways to get into deck building games and learning how to synergize cards effectively.

A lot of players collect and trade to build the best deck, while some only do the collecting because there is joy in that as well. The Pokémon card market is actually impressive. However, the basic idea of TCG is to take something as popular as Pokémon and put it into a format that is more physical

and interactive. One can play against people through the platform called “Pokémon TCG Online.”

“Pokémon TCG Pocket” is essentially a simplified version of “Pokémon TCG Online,” where turns are faster and mechanics are at a more basic level. The game begins with a helpful tutorial for collecting and battling. The interface is fairly simple and shares a resemblance to “Pokémon Go.” There are already numerous mobile titles created by GameFreak for Pokémon which all share the same thematic interface and have options to link apps to each other.

The first thing to notice about “Pocket” is that collecting cards is very easy and generous. Players can open two booster packs, each containing five cards, every twelve hours that they log in. There are also booster packs associated with completing missions and participating in limited events. A lot of the events even hand out free cards specific to the theme. There are also items which allow you to skip the twelve-hour waiting period in an instant, and said items are easy to obtain in large amounts.

I have yet to discover the use of microtransactions in this app, or if they increase after the game picks up more players. As of now, it is significantly more generous than games such as Marvel SNAP, which uses money for collection, and Clash Royale, which uses money for winning.

Deck building in this game is quite simple. First, choose which energy will generate during a match for your deck. The energy should ideally match the required energy types of your cards. For example, a deck focused around evolving Squirtle would need a lot of water type energy. You can, however, choose multiple types of energy to generate, which appear in random order.

After deciding which energy to use, the next step would be to build a deck that is mostly the same type. At least four or five basic cards would be needed, and some of those should be able to evolve. Basic cards are the lowest level Pokémon cards, which must be played first in order for higher level cards to be put into play. I would not be able to play Wartortle unless I had first played Squirtle. This is due to the fact that Wartortle is level

one while Squirtle is basic. Additionally, Squirtle needs to evolve into Wartortle for it to be played. Evolution can only occur at least one turn after a card’s initial reveal.

During gameplay, a player can have up to seven cards in their hand at once. Each turn they draw or discard a card from their hand. There can only be one attacker in play at a time, called the Active Pokémon. There are also three Benched Pokémon, who are interchangeable with the Active Pokémon each turn for a small cost of energy.

One last thing to note about attacking is that Pokémon types have weaknesses and resistances to other types. This could be a reason for a game to turn out very differently than planned. As players take turns attacking, they may also have to flip a coin to determine how much damage, if at all, an attack will do.

Pocket was designed to be simple and inviting. Playing it feels rewarding in a unique way. Eventually, I will have a deck that focuses on the likes of Greninja and Lucario, who are my favorite Pokémon. When that happens, I may bring “Pocket” back into the Icebox.

Exploring the parallels between “Dune” and the rise of Islam

By Noah Garraoui

Contributing Writer

“Dune” is a movie where things happen.

For a Western audience generally unfamiliar with the culture of the Near East—from Libya to Afghanistan, and from Turkey to Yemen—the world of “Dune” feels extremely unfamiliar. In mainstream media, we typically only receive caricatures or misunderstandings of the culture, philosophy, and history of this region.

Meanwhile, “Dune,” with its extensive use of elements from Islamic, Arab and Iranian cultures, captures a perspective on how the complexities and harshness of life in an arid environment can shape culture and, ultimately, history. With that perspective, I think most people could reevaluate their preconceived notions of broader Islamic civilization and come to understand why it is the way it is.

For the most part, I’m only considering the events of the early “Dune” books, as they take a sharp turn away from historical parallels later on, especially after the half-

spice worm, half-man Emperor Leto II ascends. In the early parts of the series, there is a rich, juicy parallel between the historical rise of Islam and the events of “Dune: Part II”—and maybe also in the books; I wouldn’t know, I did not read them.

In brief, the first Islamic Caliphate, the Rashiduns, was created after the passing of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. His closest companions conferred in council to elect the first Caliph, organize the army and complete the unification of the Arabian tribes under the caliphate.

As an interesting anecdote, the Prophet sent several letters across the known world—to Rome, Iran, Abyssinia, and across Arabia—proclaiming his message and offering them the chance to join the faith, receiving mixed reactions. After Arabia was unified, and with negotiations rejected by both the Romans and the Iranians, the army of the caliphate, under the legendary general Khalid ibn al-Walid, began a two-front campaign against these ancient powers. Long story short, Rome lost all of North Africa and the Middle East, and the Iranian

Empire was destroyed. Whoopsie!

If you are familiar with “Dune,” the parallels should already be evident. I won’t draw comparisons between specific individuals, as that is largely inapplicable, but I will focus on the broader historical beats.

Foremost is the unification of desert tribes under a single political entity: as it was in the 600s with the Arabian tribes, so too in “Dune” with the Fremen of Arrakis. As it turns out, living in an environment that can kill you fosters a stalwart warrior culture. In the movie “Dune,” Paul leads the Fremen in a guerilla war against the forces of Baron Harkonnen before initiating an open confrontation upon the Emperor’s arrival. Parallel to this, the Rashidun army used their desert expertise to great effect, especially against the Sassanids. While the Sassanid cavalry was largely restricted to roads due to their heavy armor, the Caliphate’s forces used light, highly maneuverable cavalry to strike at points along the road networks.

What convinces me that these similarities between history and fiction are intentional is the modeling of the Empire in “Dune”

on Sassanid Iran. The Emperor in “Dune” is Padishah Emperor Shaddam Corrino IV. If nothing else, the word “Padishah” itself sounds like a derivative of “Shah” or “Shahanshah,” which was the official title of the Sassanid Emperor. Additionally, the Landsraad—the assembly of noble families in the Empire—strikes a strong resemblance to the seven great houses of Iran in the Sassanid court. In both cases, the power of the crown had to be balanced and sometimes came into conflict with the nobility.

Ultimately, both of these stories conclude with great power originating from unexpected places. In “Dune,” the surprise attack by Paul and the tenacious fighting of his army unseat the Emperor. An apocalyptic campaign follows, where billions die, dozens of worlds are sterilized and religions are wiped away as Muad’Dib’s Jihad spreads from planet to planet, creating a new order. In a very different vein, in real life, the Caliphate launched its own Jihad, simultaneously challenging both superpowers of the ancient world and rising to prominence after centuries of relative silence.

A review of newly-released “Wicked” and “Gladiator II”

Was the “Glicked” trend worth it?

By Leah Smith

Asst. Opinion Editor

Just like the “Barbie” and “Oppenheimer” trend from July 2023, dubbed by the internet as “Barbenheimer,” November 2024 gives us another round of two very different yet promising movies releasing on the same day.

The “Gladiator II” and “Wicked” frenzy, also known as “Glicked,” is taking the internet by storm. Both are being praised by both critics and fans alike and blowing up the box office during this pre-Thanksgiving weekend.

So, even though both movies are making numbers and receiving general praise as a duo, how do both films measure up on their own merits?

Starting off with “Wicked,” my expectations were not too high since I was vaguely familiar with the original play and novel. However, I am pleased to say that Wicked, despite its off-screen controversies and my minimal familiarity with its predecessors, is very well done.

I was impressed by Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo’s vocal performances. The fact that they were singing live, too, is even more impressive, and I respect them a lot as performers for that.

One of my favorite parts of the movie is the set design. The film’s production designer, Nathan Crowley, also known for designing “The Dark Knight” trilogy and “Wonka,” deserves as much praise as the on-screen cast because of how elaborate and creative the setting looks.

The colors pop and the choreography collides wonderfully with the set design from the Hogwarts-like atmosphere of Shiz University to the bright green and magnificent Emerald City.

However, I will say the lighting and directing in some scenes did not do the production justice. During the “Dancing Through Life” sequence, the lighting coming from the windows

made the sequence hard to see. Other than that, the rest of the musical sequences throughout the movie were wonderful, especially the gripping “Defying Gravity” scene.

“Wicked” is a great time in the theater and despite its two hour and 40 minute runtime, the film flies by with its fun and endearing plot of sisterhood and equality as well as its entertaining musical sequences.

“Gladiator II” is the sequel that nobody knew they needed to Ridley Scott’s masterpiece, “Gladiator.” When first learning about the sequel, I was intrigued by the historical period of ancient Rome and the story of vengeance and action intrigue.

I watched the original a few days before I watched the latest entry, and I absolutely adored it. So, when I took my seat to watch the sequel, I was ready for the continuation of Ridley Scott’s epic story.

I was very impressed by “Gladiator II” and there’s so much that I loved about it. As mentioned before, I love the ancient Roman historical setting. There has been controversy about the film’s historical accuracy. My rebuttal to those comments is simply, “Are you not entertained?!”

Because despite whether the film and its colosseum sequences are historically accurate, those scenes are very fun to watch. The action scenes inside and outside of the colosseum were extremely entertaining from the fight choreography and sword action to the

jaw-dropping shark and rhino fights.

Paul Mescal who plays the film’s protagonist, Lucius Verus Aurelius, is amazing in this film. His emotional prowess gives himself a dominant presence in the film. He has his similarities to Russell Crowe’s Maximus from the original, but Mescal is able to make himself stand out by how different his background is.

The movie takes a big swing with its theme on legacy,

character and acting. He is an intelligent and fun character and seeing where his character goes as the film continues was always fun to watch.

The film runs for two hours and 28 minutes, but similar to “Wicked,” the film does not overstay its welcome. However, I found myself completely immersed with this movie and its characters and its story. This movie’s screenplay is a lot more complex than the original where that one was just a straightforward revenge story.

Even if you aren’t familiar with the original “Gladiator” film, the sequel fills the audience in well enough for the audience to understand the context of the original and how the newest entry makes its own name.

Although both films are incomparable in terms of genre, both are great films in terms of quality. If I had to choose, I preferred “Gladiator II,” but that’s just my personal taste since I love action films and historical period films.

I can’t recommend both films enough since I know that both will hit well with audiences.

Whether you want to see both separately or dedicate a day out to the theater, albeit a very long day out at the theater to see both in one day.

The “Glicked” movie trend was very much worth the hype since both films work as a tandem as well on their own.

Graphic by Lara Mullen



and I believe Mescal was the right choice to hold onto the original film’s legacy.

Pedro Pascal and Denzel Washington were also amazing in this film. Washington especially impressed me in terms of both the writing for his

Why “Arcane” is the golden standard for adult animation

By Shawn Carey
Opinion Staff Writer

The phrase “best show on TV” gets tossed around a lot. Every month or so a new television show that gets granted this title. In most cases, it’s usually some crime or historical drama. While there’s nothing wrong with that, it’s nice to see some variety.

“Arcane” is the current hottest show on the market, a Netflix series based on the video game “League of Legends.” What makes it different from its competitors is that it’s fully animated.

The show is animated by French studio “Fortiche Production.” The series tells the story of two sisters, Vi and Jinx, and their involvement in a war between the utopian city of Piltover and the oppressed underbelly of Zaun.

The show has been receiving countless praise due to its maturity and complexity. A trait that’s hard to come by in adult animation.

The past few years have seen a large increase in the number of adult animated series. Just this year alone, we saw the release of “Hazbin Hotel,” “Twilight of the Gods,” and “Kite Man: Hell Yeah!”

With that being said, most of these shows don’t really feel that “adult.” Now, I know that’s a bit of a loaded statement but let me explain.

Most adult animated shows tend to have their own idea of what they consider “adult.” Ideas that honestly, seem pretty childish.

Let’s take the previously mentioned “Hazbin Hotel” as an example. That show’s idea of maturity is cursing.

If you know me, then you know that I have no problem with cursing. I have quite the sailor’s mouth to be completely honest. However, I am a real person, not a character in a TV show.

Dialogue is extremely important in animation. It helps us understand a character’s

personality, what makes them unique. For example, having a character who regularly curses could indicate quite a few things about themselves. Perhaps they’re the rough and tumble type, or maybe they’re just straight up rude.

The problem with “Hazbin Hotel” is that every single character is cursing constantly. Every sentence features a curse, even during key and emotional moments. It destroys all the tension.

This isn’t exclusive to “Hazbin,” most adult animated shows rely on extravagant cursing. Comedies are a prime example of this. Instead of having real and solid jokes, every punchline is a curse.

Speaking of jokes, there’s a lot involving bodily fluids. As the name implies, gross-out

humor is focused around the idea of shocking viewers and disguising wider audiences.

Again, to each their own. I don’t mind it and I understand why it exists. However, it doesn’t really make for good television.

Sure a quick low-brow joke is fine every once in a while, but having it be the only type of joke in a show is a major problem. Once again, it doesn’t really feel mature. Pretty much every new FOX series is a prime example of this.

So what do I believe makes a show “adult?” What makes “Arcane” different from all the other shows?

Aimed at adults does not just mean more sex and violence, it should also mean more complex plots and deeper characters. The show should discuss topics that relate to

issues that children can’t really understand.

Let’s take a look at one of the most famous pieces of adult animation: “The Simpsons.” One of the reasons why “The Simpsons” got so popular was due to it being a family sitcom.

The early seasons have a strong emphasis on middle class issues, family drama and even mental health. The show honestly didn’t even have to be animated, it could’ve been live action. With that being said, it uses its animation to help further its story.

“Arcane” deals with love, death, class conflict, mental illness and substance abuse. Issues that children can’t fully comprehend.

Once again, you can make the argument that the show didn’t have to be animated, it could’ve been a traditional TV drama. However, just like the “Spider-verse” movies, it uses its animation to help elevate its story.

So why don’t more studios try to create series and movies like “Arcane?” It takes effort. Now, I am aware how passive aggressive that sounds but let me explain.

Animation tends to be less expensive, especially if the animation is bad. TV dramas also tend to be difficult to create. It takes a large group of talented writers to create a truly compelling story. As you’ve probably guessed, the safest type of show to write is by far comedies, especially a crude adult oriented one.

The studios are faced with a dilemma. Spend years making a risky show which may or may not be a hit. Or, create four cheaply produced shows a year, with the chance of one of them being a hit.

“Arcane” as a show is honestly one in a million. The studio took a chance and were greatly rewarded. It’s still too early to say but I hope that we can see a new trend; perhaps we’ll see studios actually taking a chance on adult animated dramas.

Graphic by Laura De Lora



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A review of detahjae's newest album "Lone, Borealis"

An analysis of stand-out tracks, production, replayability

By Logan Colonna

Asst. Opinion Editor

A few weeks ago, I was simply scrolling through TikTok when I found a snippet of a song, "Abyss."

I immediately was able to pull parallels to the likes of Tyler, The Creator and Earl Sweatshirt with both the video itself and especially the soundscape of the track. I first thought that the song sounded a lot like something off of Tyler's album, "Wolf."

With this, I fell in love with the snippet, eagerly waiting for the full track, as well as the album, to drop. Days later, I was once again scrolling through Tiktok. I found yet another snippet from detahjae's upcoming album. This snippet was titled "Janice." Yet again, I was able to relate it to Tyler, The Creator and his Grammy-winning album, "IGOR."

With all of these comparisons being made, I was more than excited to hear what the entire album had to bring to the table. Finally, weeks after hearing the initial snippet, the album, "Lone, Borealis," was released.

As expected, I found myself enjoying the full tracks that the snippets hailed from. These tracks being both "Abyss" and "Janice," which were both mentioned before. To add on, I thoroughly enjoyed "Equinox, á le train" as well as "Girl-Friend."

As for "Abyss" it included a synth-filled instrumental along with detahjae filling his bars with witty lyrics and unlimited references. Seriously. If you were to look on Genius's annotations of the track, practically every line is highlighted.

"Janice" is your typical love song. I adore the production as well as the vocals from detahjae and MARKTWO throughout the track. I enjoy the lovey-dovey nature of the second verse, which contains detahjae saying that he wishes to hold hands and take silly pictures with Janice.

"Equinox, á le train" is very similar to Tyler, The Creator's "Jamba" off

of "Wolf." This comes from both the production and even detahjae's flow. It's just different enough to become its own track and be memorable despite being similar to other tracks.

Lastly, "Girl-Friend" shows off

"Wolf," then a lot of that applies to the production seen here. My favorite instrumentals are from "Thought That We Were Just Friends," "Equinox, á le train," and "Beans."

"Thought That We Were Just Friends"



detahjae dealing with his feelings in regards to his friend, who isn't Janice *gasp*, and how he wants to pursue a romantic relationship with them. Yet again, there's not a huge reason as to why, but I enjoy detahjae's performance quite a bit on this track.

While these are stand-outs for me, the entire track list is nothing short of great.

As I partially said before, I genuinely enjoyed the production heard throughout the album. If you've read my review on Tyler, The Creator's

sticks out to me because the track itself is very fun sonically. As detahjae finishes each of his verses, the instrumental cuts out and a drum sequence starts playing, which for whatever reason, I adore. I often enjoy whenever artists stop talking and let the instrumental do the talking as detahjae does here.

As I said prior, "Equinox, á le train," has similarities to "Jamba" off of Wolf. This is because of the raunchy instrumental that is quickly made known to the listener. Yet again, if you've

read my "Wolf" review, you'd know that I love "Jamba." With that being said, it's no surprise that I enjoy this track as well.

Finally, we have "Beans." This track cranks up the "raunchiness" tenfold. With the "out-there" synths, the track can honestly be annoying to some listeners, but I love annoying. The track does opt in for a piano in some areas to calm down the overall tone of the track. It's a nice counterpoint to the usual sound of the song.

Overall, the production here, while it does lack originality, is great anyways.

In the first weekend of "Lone, Borealis" being released, I've already listened to the album at least ten times, if not more. With that being said, the album is infinitely replayable. When thinking why this is, I blame the story that we see throughout the record.

This story is detahjae's journey to Lone, Borealis, the happiest place on Earth...which isn't even on Earth. It's on one of Saturn's moons, Titan. Anyways, throughout this journey, we have dialogue between detahjae and Sal, detahjae's robotic companion.

This just helps the world-building of the album as well as giving the album as a whole some characteristics beyond the actual music. Between the short tracklist, which is only 15 tracks, the story, and the overall sound, I found myself coming back to the record a lot.

With everything being said, I think this album is great. The big thing that is holding the record back is the fact that it's similar to Tyler, The Creator and a few of his songs. While this isn't a bad thing in this case, the songs that were entirely original were amazing, proving that detahjae can stay in his own lane and still succeed.

In his next album, whenever it comes out, I'd like to see more original tracks from him just to see what he can truly do on his own.

Despite my complaint, this album is still an 8 out of 10.

Graphic by Carol Stratford

Sports

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

Winter athletes describe what winter breaks means for them

By Zach Paraway
Sports Editor

For students, the time between sessions during last December and early January are a chance to refresh after a long semester. It's a chance to relax before coming back to do it all over again in January.



So. Madison Oguin: Basketball

"Everyone is usually super excited for winter break and so are athletes but athletes that are in season during the break have a much shorter break. Being one of these athletes usually I would get almost a month long break but instead get two weeks and have to come back early. This is why athletes in season cherish this time they get. It can be a lot harder for these athletes because they don't get as much time away from school. While this can be difficult, it also allows time to bond with your team and become closer them while being the only ones on campus along with the other athletes that also have to come back early as well."

For some however, it is not a complete relaxation for them. For all the students that leave Wilkes to go back to their homes far and wide, the winter athletes will stay and compete for the Colonels in various sports.

The basketball teams, ice hockey teams, swimming teams and the wrestling team will all compete over the



Jr. Trevor Gitski: Wrestling

"So for my winter breaks obviously it's tough knowing that the break is a lot shorter due to playing a winter sport but some things that I do over the winter break outside of the usual practice/competition time would be honestly just kinda spending more time with my friends on the team where a few of us will hang out together in one room, or since the cafeteria isn't open all athletes we usually have a little bit of money that we get from the school in order to get food from different restaurants off campus for breakfast, lunch and dinner. I know for some athletes during winter break may have a winter course, and since there's a lot more free time outside of there scheduled practices, they spend some of their free time doing work for those courses as well"

break between classes. As well, the men's volleyball team will begin their season before classes start in early January.

For those winter athletes their experience is much different than that of a regular student.

Both basketball teams will play multiple games over the break, Wrestling will have their annual Wilkes Open on



Jr. Yami Matos: Basketball

"Winter break is one of my favorite parts of the basketball season. It's a unique time when we can fully focus on the game and strengthen our bond as teammates without the added stress of schoolwork. As someone who values family, I think it's important to come together as a team during this period, supporting each other while most of campus is quiet. It's a special opportunity to celebrate the holidays, put in extra work to improve our skills, and enjoy some downtime together."

Dec. 20. Both ice hockey team will play multiple games, including a Winter Classic in Pittsburgh.

For more information on all winter sports, visit gowilkesu.com



Gr. Joey Zovorsky: Basketball

"In my experience, this period has been a very formative time as a member of an athletic team. In a sense, it is an organic way to foster team bonding as everyone is so bored with no class that you are forced to hang out and get to know your teammates better. Oftentimes I've found myself getting meals with teammates, playing video games together, watching movies, and generally just hanging out, unknowingly making some of the most nostalgic memories. Also, as a member of the men's basketball team, we were afforded the privilege to take a trip down to Florida to play in a shootout in Daytona Beach. So while there are some negatives of not getting to spend as much time with family or take a break from everything, we conversely have the opportunity to boost team camaraderie in an informal setting, hone in on practice with only basketball on our minds, and, in special cases, travel with the team to face unfamiliar competition and discover new places."

Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins interns reflect on experiences

Adam Grundt
Asst. Sports Editor

Growing up, I dreamed of having a position like this.

For the 2024-25 hockey season, I hold the position as media relations intern for the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, the AHL affiliate of the Pittsburgh Penguins. As someone who attended Penguins games all the time growing up, this is especially meaningful to me.

Most of my game-night and “office day” duties include distributing credentials to professional hockey scouts attending the games & game stat sheets to each locker room during the intermissions, writing game recaps, writing stories for Breakaway (the team’s game night program), and filming postgame media availability and sending it to both local and national media outlets.

During office time, I typically research stats for the team’s broadcaster, Nick Hart. During games I am often tasked with doing the same. In addition to my game night responsibilities, I update the game notes that are distributed to the locker rooms and scouts that contain statistics and small notes about the game on that given night.

Getting to talk to the players and coaches on a regular basis is something that has been a surreal experience. I am forming connections and making friends within the team that I share a love for hockey with. Growing up, I always wanted to work in sports. Being able to share my love for hockey with professional players who are around my same age and employees who see themselves in me at the intern level is certainly special.

Throughout the past month and a half, I have been keeping up with these duties and I get tasked with more every week. It almost doesn’t feel like work. Researching hockey teams is something that I do in my free time for my own enjoyment. I always dreamed of having a position like this and it feels surreal that I do.

When people have asked me if I’m enjoying my time with the Penguins, I always respond with:

“If I could do this for the rest of my life, I’d be perfectly fine with it.”

Sam Mullen
Asst. Sports Editor

I’ve had the fortunate honor of being able to take on an internship with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins.

For my internship I work with their Goals Foundation, which aims to grow hockey in NEPA. They are a nonprofit organization so many of the things that I’ve gotten to help with include any fundraisers or events that the foundation plans.

When I first started, I helped with reaching out to clients that would sponsor our Pet Calendar. Last week, I was able to meet some dogs from Blue Chip Farm Animal Rescue that were being photographed with some of the players. I took behind the scenes photos and videos that were later posted in the Pens main instagram.

My week typically looks a little chaotic due to having classes, but I go into their office either two or three times a week, depending on if we have a game. I also work any and all home games which are on Saturdays.

Game days vary depending on what my supervisor, Amanda Cromer, has me

doing. I always get there a half hour before the gates open to help set up. There have only been a handful of times where I stay super late but most game days, I am able to get out by 9 p.m. at the latest.

On game days, the energy is electric. I’m able to play a key role in ensuring everything runs smoothly—from setting up promotional activities and fan interactions. I might find myself helping with the jersey raffle or working behind the scenes to prepare for selling special warm-up pucks.

Days working in the office can also look very different depending on what we are focusing on. Typically on Fridays, which are the day before game days, I’m helping get anything for the game the next day. Some days I could be sitting at a desk creating flyers for our Ice Capsule or coming up with ideas for any of the upcoming special game nights. I could also be doing more hands-on work like creating our holiday ornaments or organizing our mystery bags that were being sold.

An internship with the Goals Foundation has offered invaluable opportunities to develop a wide range of professional skills. Time management, problem-solving and multitasking are critical as I juggle various

responsibilities. Communication is another cornerstone, whether I’m crafting flyers to promote events, pitching ideas to my supervisor or interacting with fans and sponsors.

I’ve also gained exposure to the behind-the-scenes operations of a professional sports organization. From learning about sponsorships and partnerships to understanding the logistics of event planning, the internship has equipped me with knowledge and experience that are applicable in a variety of career paths.

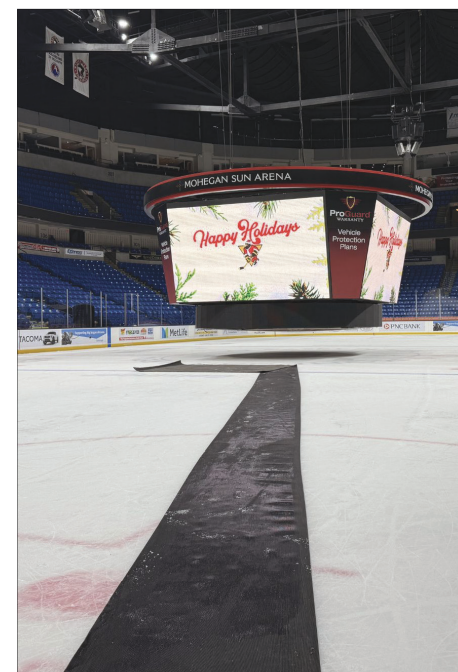
Interning for the Goals Foundation with the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins has been a unique experience that blends the excitement of professional sports with the fulfillment of community service. It’s a role that has challenged me to grow, rewards me with hands-on experience and inspires me to think about how I can make an impact in the community.

I’m someone who is very passionate about sports, community outreach and personal development, so this internship has become more than a resume booster—it’s an opportunity to be part of something truly special.

Photos by Sam Mullen



Sam Mullen sells Jersey Raffle tickets behind Penguins Goals Foundation table.



“Happy Holidays” graphic is displayed on the jumbotron at the Mohegan Sun

WBB drops tight one against rival King’s at home

By Zach Paraway
Sports Editor

The Wilkes women’s basketball team dropped another game this season, this one against cross town rival King’s College at home. Wilkes came into the game at 0-6, still searching for their first win on the season.

The team had come off playing two national ranked Landmark conference opponents in #3 University of Scranton and #16 Catholic University. King’s walked into the game at 2-3 with wins against Penn State Schuylkill and Lycoming.

The game was a slow start for the Colonels, ending the first quarter down 17-10. The story could be told in the shooting percentages from the 1st period as King’s came

out shooting over 50 percent while Wilkes was down at 17.

The second period was a much improved defensive showing for Wilkes, holding King’s to shooting 27 percent in the quarter. Wilkes did not fare much better however, only adding 8 to King’s 13, resulting in the halftime score reading 30-18 in favor of King’s.

Wilkes came out the halftime in lockdown mode, holding King’s to a measly five points in the third quarter, while adding 11 of their own. Jr. Nadia Evanosky nailed both her final free throws of the period, giving her six points in the third alone, leading both teams.

Both teams walked into the fourth with the lead only reading a six-point lead for King’s. Unfortunately for our Colonels, this would hold true

as King’s would end up winning the game with the final score reading 54-44. The 4th was the highest scoring for both teams, seeing King’s score 19 and Wilkes score 15.

Standout Performances include Evanosky scoring 16 points with eight boards and five steals, Jr. Madison Robel with eight points and 10 boards, and Sr. Julianna Askins provided seven points and four boards off the bench.

The team will play again on Dec. 4 against Lycoming College on the road in the Colonels.

For more information on the women’s basketball team along with all Wilkes athletics, please visit gowilkesu.com.

Have a specific sporting event you want covered? email sports editor Zach Paraway

zacharyparaway@wilkes.edu

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

DEC. 4TH 7PM @ LYCOMING COLLEGE / LANDMARK
DEC. 7TH 2PM @ JUNIATA COLLEGE / LANDMARK
HOME / DEC. 14TH 3PM V. KEYSTONE COLLEGE
JAN. 4TH 1PM @ ALVERNIA UNIVERSITY
HOME / JAN. 8TH 5PM V. GOUCHER COLLEGE / LANDMARK
JAN. 12TH 12PM VS. ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE
@THE PALESTRA/ LANDMARK
HOME/ JAN. 15TH 7PM V. DREW UNIVERSITY / LANDMARK
HOME / JAN. 18TH 2PM SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY / LANDMARK
JAN. 23RD 7PM V. MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY / LANDMARK

JAN. 25TH 1PM @ CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA / LANDMARK
HOME / JAN. 29 7PM V. LYCOMING COLLEGE / LANDMARK
HOME / FEB. 1ST 2PM V. JUNIATA COLLEGE / LANDMARK
HOME / FEB. 5TH 6PM V. UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON / LANDMARK
FEB. 8TH 2PM @ SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY / LANDMARK
FEB. 12TH 7PM @ DREW UNIVERSITY / LANDMARK
HOME / FEB. 15TH 2PM V. ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE / LANDMARK
HOME / FEB. 19TH 7PM V. MORAVIAN UNIVERSITY/ LANDMARK
FEB. 22ND 2PM @ GOUCHER COLLEGE/ LANDMARK



Q&A with Wilkes men's lacrosse head coach Curtis Jaques

Stephen Youkoski (Interview)

Managing Editor

Andrew Marshall (Transcription)

Sports Staff Writer

Entering a decade as head of the men's lacrosse team, Curtis Jaques sat down with WilkesNow and The Beacon's Stephen Youkoski. The team amassed a record of 4-12, with a record of 1-8 in Landmark Conference play.

Q (Youkoski): How long have you been at Wilkes, and where were you coaching prior to your tenure here at the university?

A (Coach Jaques): I moved my family up here in 2014, so I've been here for 10 years. We moved up here from my alma mater when I was coaching at the Virginia Military Institute. I was there for five years prior to taking on and starting the program here 10 years ago.

Q: What was the jump like from that institute to this one?

A: Going from division one to division three—there's obviously changes with that. I think the biggest change is geographic location. You can draw a three and a half hour radius around us and you get the best lacrosse around the world all around us. Our recruiting is just closer to home, there's a big difference.

Q: What made you move your family and decide to come to Wilkes?

A: Definitely wanted to start my own program, definitely wanted to put my own stamp and we still have the same mission that we had from the first year I started the program. A lot of the cultural things have carried through year to year. Every year has been different here, there's certain standards that come with me being here for 10 years. I like those traditions and that culture carries over.

Q: Could you talk a little about that culture and those traditions?

A: It's a growth mindset, we definitely want to look at our stats and get better every year. Whether it's GPA or faceoff



Stephen Youkoski conducts interview with head coach Curtis Jaques.

wins, whether it's weight on the squat rack, we want to see growth.

Q: How has recruiting been this past offseason?

A: Definitely much more competitive in the Landmark. Going after much smarter individuals, I think that it's brought us a bit more south. We're competing a bit more in Virginia and Maryland just based on the proximity of our opponents. So that's good, but at the end of the day, we have engineering and business, those two things take up a bulk of our roster academically. We're pretty strong in those departments.

Q: How do you think last season, our debut season in the Landmark went for the team?

A: We're learning how to compete. Back to year one when I started the program, we had to learn how to compete. Before you can expect to compete or learn to win or expect to win, we're on that next stage where we need to expect to compete. That means that it's two or three goal games and swing, it could go either way. We have to learn how to get into those situations right now. In order to come out on top and learn to win, we have to expect to compete right now, so that's where we're at.

at practice right now, but yeah I'm very excited for the season coming up.

Q: How many freshmen do we have on the team this year?

A: We have nine.

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

A: I enjoy the little things, Stephen. I think spring break is some of the best memories, some are just making breakfast in March with the boys. I think the best memories are shared I think at every alumni game, at every homecoming every fall. It's something as a coach you really look forward to. And me being 10 years in, seeing my alum getting married or having families, bringing new faces to the alumni games, so that's a really cool thing for me—sharing those memories at our alumni games. So, I'll just say it, alumni games are my favorite place for memories I think.

Q: Do you have one specific game that really brings home things for you?

A: I think most recently I think we took King's to an OT win last season, that was fun.

For more information regarding Wilkes men's lacrosse, visit www.gowilkesu.com or the Landmark Conference at www.landmarkconference.org.

See the full interview on the Wilkes Now YouTube page.

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

Q&A with Wilkes women's lacrosse head coach Maegan Laymon

Stephen Youkoski (Interview)

Managing Editor

Andrew Marshall (Transcription)

Sports Staff Writer

For the spring 2025 season, Wilkes' women's lacrosse team will have a new head coach. Maegan Laymon was named the new head coach of the program after the 2024 season. Last season the Colonels amassed a record of 2-15, with a Landmark Conference record of 0-9.

WilkesNow! and The Beacon's Stephen Youkoski sat down with the team's new coach to discuss the upcoming spring season, as well as to see how things are going so far.

Q (Youkoski): Where were you coaching prior to the summer when you were hired as the coach at Wilkes University?

A (Coach Laymon): I was volunteering with a club in California. Prior to California, I was coaching at the varsity level at an independent school in Memphis, Tennessee.

Q: With that transition from an independent club and as well as the varsity level in high school, why did you decide to come to Wilkes?

A: Wilkes was a unique opportunity for me. It's very close to where I grew up, so I am close to my family, but this is also a program that can be very successful and can compete in the new conference that they are in. It was really something I wanted to be a part of with building it and putting everything together in order for them to be able to compete.

Q: Are you familiar at all with the previous conference and this new conference?

A: I'm not very familiar, but I do know that was another one. Again, you could be very successful here, we just need to be able to put everything together and really build it.

Q: Do you feel that your experience as a former player impacts your coaching style?



Stephen Youkoski conducts interview with head coach Maegan Laymon.

A: 100 percent. As a player, I just wanted to learn; I wanted to get better, and I did a lot of work outside of just practice and games. As a coach, I'm constantly learning—I want to know more. The game has advanced so much from when I played in college that it's really exciting to be able to open up youtube and use the different resources, Twitter and Instagram and just see what other coaches are doing and what they're doing with their programs; how they're running their offense, how they're running their defense. You're constantly learning new things to incorporate into your program.

Q: Is it ever difficult to separate your player experience with your coaching experience?

A: I wouldn't say difficult, I think that it was just very different from when I played, which seems like forever ago, but it wasn't. I do take a lot of what I do coaching from my college coaches that I had. I don't think it's more having to separate that experience, but being able to look at it and reflect and be like as a player, "what did I do, how did I respond to this?" It's really just being able to take it from a player perspective and put it into a coaching, taking it from coaching and putting it into a player perspective.

Q: What are your expectations for the team this upcoming season?

A: To compete. We are going to compete this year, it should be an exciting year for us. Our goal is to just to do better than the previous years, and we're just looking to build on everything that was already here. So we just want to be able to compete.

Q: Do you have any specific impact seniors you think are going to play a big role this season?

A: 100 percent. All of your seniors are going to make an impact this year. They're going to be utilized in different ways that they might not be used to, but it's just a different opportunity for everybody. We brought in a lot of freshmen, I believe that we have seven. Again, impact players—everybody's going to make an impact this year.

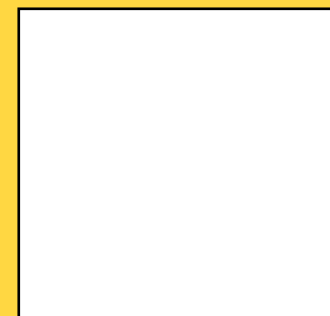
Q: In your short time here, what's your favorite memory of being at Wilkes?

A: I don't know if I can pick just one. Right now, if I had to pick a favorite memory for the semester it'd probably be every day at fall ball or in the weight room. We did get some of our girls barking at practice last night on defense, so that might be a core memory right now.

For more information regarding Wilkes women's lacrosse, visit www.gowilkesu.com or the Landmark Conference at www.landmarkconference.org.

See the full interview on the Wilkes Now YouTube page.

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