# THE BEACON

Wilkes University - Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

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

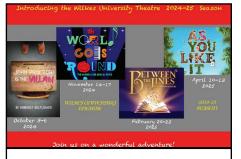
#### Colonels reclaim Mayor's Cup 43-28 against King's College



Wilkes University sophomore wide receiver Juju Fears soon scores a receiving touchdown as King's College senior defensive back Amir Gibson trails behind him. Wilkes won the game, 43-28. Senior quarterback Xavier Powell was awarded the MVP plaque by President Greg Cant. See pages 12 and 13 for more photos. Photos by Sam Mullen and Zach Paraway



Wilkes University
Programming Board hosts
field day event, page 3



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Why you should play tabletop RPGs, page 17



Athletes of the Week, pages 22 and 23

# News

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

## Student Government notes: Sept. 4 weekly meeting

NOTES

By Kayla Bicskei

Contributing Writer

Student government held its second weekly meeting of the Fall 2024 semester on September 4.

The meeting started with a representative of the Wilkes University Chapter of College Democrats with their week one of two club recognition requests. The mission of this club is to advocate democratic values and promote students to become politically active leaders.

The club also advocated for the Republican Club of Wilkes to be revived.

The political club will return next week for their second presentation.

Student government's parliamentarian presented for the week two of two constitution changes.

Updates to the constitution were revised. The changes decreased member requirements from participation with both 10 event hours and 10 office hours to a total of 10 hours

participated through a combination of both.

The election committee and food committee have been eliminated.

Requirements new club recognition have also been revised.

New clubs will now only need to present for two weeks in order to receive approval to be recognized as an official club.

The number of signatures required to run for class representative, treasurer, vice president, and president have

been lowered from 50 to 25 and 150 to 50, respectively.

All constitution changes and updates were approved. Members of the homecoming coordinating

team were the last to present at the meeting with their funding request.

The presentation outlined the three days of

events that will take place on the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of homecoming weekend.

On Thursday, a pep rally will be held on the greenway from 6 to 8 p.m.

On Friday, two events will occur. The first is to decorate your own trucker hat from 5 until 7 p.m. The second is mini golf on the first floor of Stark Learning Center, set to start at 7:30 p.m. and end at 9 p.m.

On Saturday, students can get merchandise that will be given out at the

homecoming football game.

The homecoming weekend coordinating team is requesting \$9,500 for the 3 days of events. They will return next week for the next part of their presentation.

The next meeting will take place on Sept. 11.

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#### Beacon Briefs: Upcoming campus events

#### Compiled by Beacon News Staff

#### **RHC Milkshake Giveaway**

Residence Hall Council will hand out free milkshakes on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the Greenway in honor of National Milkshake Day.

#### Welcome the the **Neighborhood Social**

The Office of Diversity Affairs will host a neighborhood social on Thursday, Sept. 12 from 11 a.m. to noon in Max Roth Center 105.

Students can stop by for light refreshments and a meet and greet with the office.

#### **Dave & Busters Student Development Trip**

Student Development will host an evening at Dave & Busters on Sunday, Sept. 14. Students can sign up at the information desk in the Henry Student center and will need to provide their Wilkes ID and \$15 payment at time of

Transportation via the Wilkes shuttle will be provided. The shuttle will leave campus at 4:30 p.m. and return at 8:30 p.m. There are limited spots available. Contact studentdev@wilkes.edu with any questions.

#### **Produce Pop-up**

The Office of Civic Engagement will have their first monthly produce pop-up on Wednesday, Sept. 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the SUB.

Those who bring their own bags can skip the line.

#### Kisses to Cancer 5K

Wilkes University's **AFROTC** Detachment 752 will host the third annual Kisses to Cancer 5K on Saturday, Sept. 28 at 9 a.m in honor of U.S. Air Force Major Candice Adams Ismirle, a Wilkes University alumni who died in 2016 after a battle with triple-negative breast cancer.

To register for the event, follow this https://secure.touchnet.com/ C21800\_ustores/web/product\_detail.js p?PRODUCTID=218&SINGLESTORE =true

#### **Upcoming Events:** 2024 Fall Semester

#### September

12 - Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?

13 - Student Government sign-ups

19 - Fiesta

26 - Programming Board giveaway

#### October

3 - Blockbuster Bingo

10-14- Fall Recess

17 - Wilkestober Fest

24 - Sound Showdown

28-31 - Freak Week

Want your event featured in the calendar?

Email: emma.broda@wilkes.edu

#### Wilkes University Programming Board hosts field day event

By Emma Broda

News Editor

On Sept. 5, Wilkes' Programming Board held Field Day as part of the second week of school activities. The event included classic field day games, food and prizes.

Programming Board served "walking tacos" and Italian ice to students, who were able to sit and spend time with friends while they ate.

Students got to choose whether their "walking tacos" were made in Doritos or Fritos chip bags, as well as what toppings they wanted.

An interesting debate was stirred on which chip option was superior, with many votes towards Doritos.

Emily Iannnucci-Furman, sophomore criminology and sociology major, shared her opinion on the debate.

"Doritos one hundred percent, but it has to be the cheese ones," she said.

Many students shared that although they did not have a huge interest in

participating in the games themselves, they still came to enjoy the food and watch others compete.

Shauna Evancavich, sophomore early education major, and Iannnucci-Furman both said that they frequently attend Programming Board events as a way of spending time with their friends.

They admitted they both came only for the food with no intent on playing games, but still seemed to be having a fun evening.

Even thouigh they chose not to participate in the games,, many students still gathered on the Greenway to compete.

Some games such as cornhole, frisbee and volleyball were played by students throughout the night without being a part of a competition for a prize.

However, there were games played for those different prizes, many of which were classic field day games. These included tug-of-war, an egg race, water balloon toss, wheelbarrow race, potato sack race and musical chairs. The prizes for the various events included a university branded sweatshirt, Owala water bottles, a cookware set, headphones and a spikeball set.

Although many students were interested in winning the prizes, even those who did not win seemed to enjoy themselves.

Camden Craig, freshman pharmacy major, participated in the potato sack race. The first-year student won the spike ball set as a result of his performance.

"I wanted to do at least one event that I felt I was strong in," Craig said.

Craig added that no matter if he won or lost, he was "there for the fun."

Whether students came to the event to play games for fun, play to win or just to get food, the Field Day event gave everyone an opportunity to get together with friends and have fun.

The next Programming Board event is the "Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?" event, which will include a trivia-based competiton between students. It will take place on Thursday, Sept. 12.



Junior sociology major Sarah McAndrew was joined by Pierogi at the university's recent Field Day.

Photos by Emma Broda



Natalia Williams, sophomore double major in communication studies and Spanish, and Alyson Buchinski, sophomore education major, handed out walking tacos during the recent Field Day on campus. Food was a popular aspect of the Sept. 5 event.



Tug-of-war was one of the many field day games challenging students. Other activities included an egg race, water balloon toss, wheelbarrow race, potato sack race and musical chairs.

### That's So Honors: Welcoming a New Graduate Assistant

**By Morgan Steiner** 

Contributing Writer

This fall, the Honors Program welcomed a new Graduate Assistant (GA) and Honors Program alumnus: Lindsey Scorey!.

Scorey graduated in 2023 with a bachelor of arts degree in communication studies.

While she attended Wilkes University, Scorey embodied the idea of "That's So Honors," becoming heavily involved in both extracurricular and academic activities.

She split her time between multiple cocurriculars in the Communication Studies Department. Scorey served as director and client manager for Zebra Communications, a podcast host, and social media manager for 90.7 WCLH. She also served as both a staff writer and assistant opinion editor for The Beacon.

Outside of communication studies, Scorey worked as a Kirby Scholar, e-Mentor Orientation Coordinator, and interned with both the Office of Marketing Communications and Student Development.

Scorey spent the last year working as a media consultant for the Times Leader Media Group before deciding to return to the university to pursue a master of Aarts and a master of fine arts in creative writing.

In addition to her coursework, Scorey will serve as the graduate assistance for the Wilkes University Honors Program.

A graqduate assistant position is a work-study opportunity made available to students enrolled in graduate programs. The type of work varies, depending on the office.

For Scorey, much of this work involves facilitating the peer mentoring and small group programs and assisting with Honors Program events.

"As a GA, I am really looking forward to being a part of any and all events and helping new students become acclimated to the program through it all," Scorey said.

"It has already been so great to see first year students being involved, so I think I

will enjoy the events for myself, but also be living vicariously through seeing new students find their community here."

Despite the heavy workload between work and master's programs, Scorey is excited to be working directly with the Honors Program Director and Assistant Director, Dr. Jonathan Kuiken and Professor Jen McLaughlin.

"When I saw the Honors GA position was open for applicants, it was a no-brainer for me," Scorey said.

Scorey, who hopes to work in academia, said the opportunity to work with extraordinary faculty and students was one of the highlights of this particular role.

"What drew me to the Honors & Scholars Program GA role was the authenticity and student-centered aspect of it."

Scorey's connections with her fellow students don't end when she leaves the Honors Office for the classroom.

"I began my MA/MFA program back in June and it has been better than I could ever imagine. "I met my cohort back during June residency and by the end, we were all so emotional to leave each other," she said.

Scorey mentioned that her cohort is kind and talented, and that she is excited to be in a program surrounded by so many great people.

In addition to her multiple responsibilities, Scorey has to balance her GA role, her job outside of Wilkes, and her daunting Master's coursework, as she is enrolled in courses in both Poetry and Nonfiction, which requires not only a lot of writing, but a lot of reading.

"...my favorite part is getting to read my fellow classmates' work and get their feedback on mine," she said.

Scorey is looking forward to a year of education, fun, and new connections.

Balancing two Master's programs with a GA role and another job? That's So Honors.

To keep up with Lindsey and the rest of the Honors Program, follow @ wilkeshonors on Instagram.



Meet Lindsey Scorey, the GA for the Honors Program.



Scorey, who graduated in 2023, was an active member of both the Honors Program and campus community.

# New accounting practices for all clubs and organizations

By Kayla Bicskei

News Staff Writer

Wilkes University clubs and organizations are now required to follow new accounting rules during the Fall 2024 semester. Clubs and organizations are no longer allowed to carry unlabeled funds from one fiscal year to another.

Prior to the Fall 2024 semester, clubs and organizations were able to carry funds provided by Wilkes University, Student Government requests, and independent fundraising through multiple fiscal years to fund club and organization meetings, events, and trips.

This change is due to previous accounting practices being labeled as irresponsible from the university.

Money that clubs and organizations have received from Wilkes funds, Student Government requests, and independent fundraising will be diminished to \$0 at the end of every fiscal year.

According to the university, carrying money that does not have a labeled purpose from one fiscal year to the next is not an acceptable accounting practice.

If clubs and organizations are saving money for an event, conference, or trip that is scheduled past the fiscal new year, they can label that money for that event, conference, or trip. This way, the clubs may keep any fundraised money from being taken away.

The clubs and organizations can label this money on the fundraising application. When fundraised money is labeled, that money can only be used for the event, conference, or trip it has been assigned to.

The absence of funds in university organizations, such as the capital projects funds, might result in a relatively minor decrease in funding for some clubs and organizations. While surpluses do not roll over, the budget does not decrease for the next fiscal year.

The Programming Board is one of the organizations experiencing a decrease in school funding. Programming Board Vice President and Wilkes University student, Logan Colonna, commented on the newly introduced accounting practices.

"This could be a hard transition for some clubs and students, but I'm sure we can all band together as students and work through this hurdle," said Colonna.

"If we work together, then I'm sure everything will work out."

Club and organization money that is reset at the beginning of the fiscal year will be dissolved into Wilkes University. This money will be used for projects meant to improve student life outside of classrooms and academic buildings.

Through this effort, students of all levels will be able to enjoy funded Wilkes University projects before they graduate.

An example of a project this dissolved money will be funding are the new lights installed at Schmit Stadium.

While it is cuurently unclear what the other projects may be, the university asssures that they will be beneficial to the student population.

# Professor Profile: Dr. Elyssa Gage

By Emma Broda

News Editor

This fall, Dr. Elyssa Gage joined the university as an assistant professor of history in the global cultures department.

Gage was raised in Nice, France, where she first began studying humanities in high school. She moved to the United States to attend Pepperdine University in California where she graduated with a degree in international studies.

She continued her education at the University of Florida where she received both her masters and doctorate in history. Gage previously taught at a university in Alabama, where her family lives.

Gage shared that her interest in history became really clear from studying tensions in places such as North Korea and Pakistan. She found that looking at aspects of history she was more familiar with, like European colonialism, from a different perspective was very interesting.

Gage herself is no stranger to world history, having spent time researching in multiple countries. These countries include France, the United States, Japan, South Korea and Italy.

Her own research primarily focuses on French colonialism and empire, looking at its involvement in Africa and Asia. The new professor has been looking into territories that France is still present in the French Caribbean and how ideas of empire have changed.

During this fall semester, Gage is teaching a course on the history of piracy. The



Photo submitted by Elyssa Gage

course looks at the role of pirates in global history, specifically with its association with the Caribbean. This includes studying the relationship between pirates in slavery, building empires and international law.

She shared that piracy eventually was made illegal and empires created an "idea that if a country cannot prevent pirates from attacking traders, then they are a rogue nation" and that this is used as justification for colonization.

Gage also talked about looking at the social dimension of piracy, that if piracy is made illegal and pirates are being attacked then why are people still becoming pirates?

In the spring, Gage will be teaching a class on the African Diaspora.

# Interested in telling campus news and stories? Join The Beacon

Email emma.broda@wilkes.edu or kalen.churcher@wilkes.edu

# Annual Club Day a successful event for all

**By Staff Reports** 

With weather that wasn't too hot or too chilly, Club Day 2024 was a successful event that brought students, faculty, staff and administrators to the campus greenway.

Students were able to enjoy free food, pick up "club swag" and explore the dozens of clubs and cocurriculars represented at the event. Even Walter, the first dog of Wilkes, made an appearance.

Club Day is an annual event on campus and is open to everyone, though it is often popular with first-year students looking to meet new people and get involved on campus.

Though some clubs and activities focus around specific majors, many involve special interests and are open to anyone looking to start a new hobby or to keep up with an old one.



Photos/Shannon Slominski

Gene McCormick, sophomore communication and media studies major, checks out the U.S. Air Force ROTC table at Club Day.



Photos/Submitted photo

Walter Cant, the first havapoo of Wilkes, enjoys some shade during the university's recent Club Day. Walter was a popular attraction at the event.



Photos/Shannon Slominski

Dozens of tables surround the greenway for Wilkes' 2024 fall Club Day. Sunny skies and not-too-hot temperatures provided a welcoming environment for hundreds of students.



Photos/Submitted photo

A steady stream of students visit club and cocurricular tables circling the university greenway.

# Life, Arts & Entertainment

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

## University Theatre Department announces season

**By Cally Williams** 

Special to The Beacon

Tucked away on the corner of River Street sits the Dorothy Dickson Darte Centre for the Performing Arts. The centre houses convocation, your 8 a.m. yoga class and the university's performing arts program, including dance, theatre, and music.

This year, the theatre will put on four mainstage productions, including two straight plays and two musicals. Those include: "John Proctor is the Villain," "And the World Goes Round," "Between the Lines," and "As You Like It."

"John Proctor is the Villain" takes place in Georgia in 2018, where a group of high school students are studying the "Crucible". This play, by Kimberly Belflower, tackles subjects such as misogyny and sexual assault, while mentioning these topics in context of the Arthur Miller classic.

"It tells a story that is so unfortunately realistic and shines a new light on a book that so many of us read at an age where we could be told what we were supposed to think about it," said junior Madeline Meier.

The production will be directed by Alison Morooney and intimacy and fight captained by Meier. Meier is a musical theatre major with a minor in sports psychology.

"This show is the perfect mix of laughter and discomfort with a powerful message that the Wilkes community needs to hear," Meier continued.

She also will be playing Shelby Holcomb, an outspoken student who just recently came back to the school after leaving

Isabella Ruiz will play Raelynn Nix, a cheerleader and aspiring goth who wants to break from what she's used to while dealing with the return of her exbest friend, played by Meier, and turmoil within the school.

"It is an important show," Ruiz said. "It allows for conversations about healing, reconciliation and accountability."

Ruiz is a senior musical theater major and is very excited for this production.

Those production runs from Oct. 3 through 6.

John Kander and Fred Ebb are known throughout musical theatre history for songwriting contributions. The duo is famous for musicals "Chicago" and like "Cabaret". Their musical revue, "And the World Goes Round" includes songs from these hit shows, as well as many of their

"And the World Goes Round" features Jon Liebetrau as the director, Dr. Joshua Harper as the music director, and Lynn Esgro as the choreographer. Along with musical numbers, the show features exciting choreography.

other works.

Bob Fosse is often associated with the Kander and Ebb style, as he choreographed and helped write several of their shows. Fosse was an influential choreographer and is well known for his distinct style of choreography, which will come through in several numbers. This revue runs from Nov. 14 through 17 at the Dorothy Dickson Darte Centre.

Based on the book by Jodi Picoult and Samantha van Leer, "Between the Lines" tells the story of high school junior and book worm, Delilah. Delilah falls in love with the main character of the book she's reading and finds out that the characters in the book are alive and can talk to her.

Delilah jumps between the fairytale world with her prince and the real world, where she struggles with bullies and family

Introducing the Wilkes University Theatre 2024-25 Season



Join us on a wonderful adventure!

#### **Graphic courtesy of Wilkes University Theatre**

troubles

Featuring a score by Elyssa Samsel and Kate Anderson and book by Timothy Allen McDonald, "Between the Lines" is for everyone who ever wished they could leave their lives behind and jump into a book. The musical will be on the Darte stage from Feb. 20 through 23.

The season ends with the Shakespearean comedy, "As You Like It." This play tells of Rosalind and her cousin Celia as they run away to the woods as Rosalind is exiled by her uncle, the Duke. Rosalind dresses up like a man and comedy ensues as the cousins meet hilarious characters while they run through the woods, followed by Rosalind's admirer, Orlando.

"For this season, I am personally very excited to be directing two very fresh new

shows, both of which were written by female identifying playwrights," Morooney said.

Morooney is currently in rehearsals for "John Proctor is the Villain" and will be directing the second musical of the year, "Between the Lines."

Each semester includes two very different shows. "John Proctor is the Villain" is a very new play while "And the World Goes Round" includes songs from Kander and Ebb that were written in 1965.

"Between the Lines" was first performed in 2023 and "As You Like it" was written by Shakespeare in the 16th century.

"There is always a place for the great classics of course," Morooney said, "and I am glad we are covering both ends of that spectrum in one production season here at Wilkes."



#### Sydney Allabaugh:

NISSAN ALTIMA - Doechii

Stephen Youkoski:

**ROXANNE - Arizona Zervas** 

Sam Mullen:

Night Moves - Bob Seger

**Megan Davis:** 

Quarterback - Wallows

**Adam Grundt:** 

one of wun - Gunna

**Emma Broda:** 

Interstate - Big Thief

**Leah Smith:** 

Stitch - Wage War

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** 

**Field Day** 

**Are You Smarter Than** 

a Fifth Grader?

**Fiesta** 

**Giveaway #1** 

**Blockbuster Bingo** 

**Wilkestober Fest** 

8/29

9/5

9/12

9/19

9/26

10/3

10/17

**Sound Showdown** 

**Freak Week** 

Comedian

**Chillax Bingo** 

**Giveaway #2** 

White Elephant

**Bingo** 

10/24

10/28-10/31

11/7

11/14

11/21

12/5

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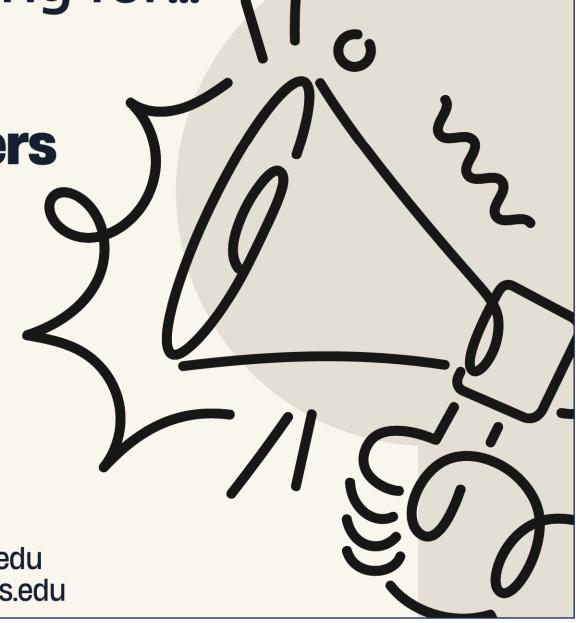
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#### Contact:

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



## New app aims to increase engagement on campus

#### **By Natalia Williams**

Life, Arts and Entertainment Staff Writer

Forget when a particular event is being held? Looking for a way to publicize your next activity?

Tired of using WIN numbers to collect an accurate picture of who attended a particular event?

Good news Colonels. Communication and fostering student engagement on campus has just gotten easier this year.

Clubs and organizations across campus have started to use an app that tracks what events students attend.

Suitable, is an engagement app designed to help students publicize and be aware of events happening on campus. The app allows for a centralized spot for campus community members to see what's happening and when.

Clubs and organizations like Programming Board, Student Government and the Multicultural Student Coalition, are all utilizing the platform to track attendance and to inform the student body about events that are happening.

For each event posted on Suitable, descriptions can also be included to provide additional information so users understand what the event is.

According to Suitable's website, the app utilizes the "20-60-20 Rule." According to the rule, about 20 percent of students are engaged in campus activities. However, an equal amount are not very engaged at all, and the remaining 60 percent just need some additional encouragement.

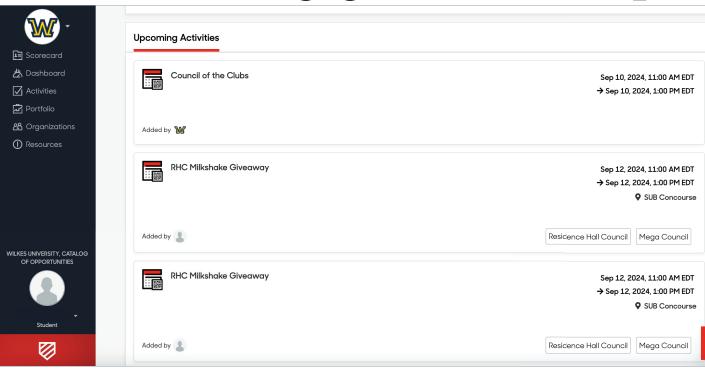
The app is designed particularly to help those students who need that extra help.

Junior marketing major Jenny Nguyen enjoys the app because it is easier for clubs to handle administrative duties.

"I think Suitable has been a big help in taking attendance because it makes things a lot easier for clubs and students," Nguyen said. "All we have to do is scan a QR code and once you have the app set up you are good to go."

The app has also cut down the wait to enter events. Before Suitable, attendance was taken by taking students' individual WIN numbers. Since the rollout of Suitable, students don't have to worry about remembering their numbers.

"I feel it was easier than the people going to everyone individually to take the WINs," sophomore education major Shauna



For those not wishing to use the app, a desktop verson of the student engagement app, Suiteable, is available.

Evancavich. "It took less time."

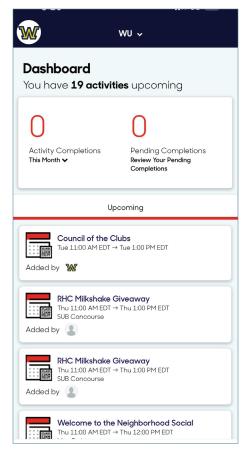
To use Suitable, download it on your phone. Once you enter the app, you are prompted to enter your school email address. After, it will send you to sign in using the university portal. There, you can enter your username and password.

Once finished you are ready to use the app. On the day of an event simply click on the QR code icon, and scan the QR code provided by whoever is taking attendance at that event.

There is also a desktop version for folks looking to use something other than their cellphone.

Overall, Suitable is proving to be an effective and efficient app for those around campus. It is helping students become more involved on campus and providing good information about events.

At right: Students accessing the app will see a screen similar to the one pictured. After clicking on a event, they will see a screen with details of the specific event.





10

# Seek-A Word

Challenge yourself to find all of the words

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

#### **Answer Key:**

#### **Word Bank**

notebook
 study
 school
 pencil

9. computer 10. desk

3. homework7. professor

11. class

4. backpack

8. student

12. syllabus

Credit for this puzzle goes to:

www.dictionary.com

# COLONEL VICTORY OVER KING'S AT THE MAYOR'S CUP

Photos by Sam Mullen and Zach Paraway

Jr. Tallen Murray and So. Rob Barbarri combinefor TD saving tackle during win versus King's



















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

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The Beacon Est. 1936 Pa. Newspaper Association Member



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

#### Clubs should keep their unspent funds

The Student Government's change in club funding is without a doubt a controversial decision. Absorbing unused funds to make changes for other parts of the university is something that will create a divide in opinion among students. Many students however, specifically those who are frequent club members, are outraged by this.

Absorbing leftover funds from university clubs because clubs saving the leftover money can be considered "poor accounting practices" and using that money for other resources around the university that students may not use or need is a questionable decision, to say the least. Many clubs use that money to cover future events or to plan programming to benefit the wider campus community.

Even though students have been told there is a possibility that money can still possibly be saved for a big future goal (like a major trip), what are the chances this is guaranteed? In addition, what about the funding for future events that clubs would like to initiate for the student community?

Many clubs participate in many small events, whether it's for fundraising or

to benefit the Wilkes community. These include events like Trunk-or-Treat and cookouts. Events such as these can only happen with the money that clubs are able to save, which may require using funds saved from previous semesters.

Without this financial security, events like this could dwindle as club officers choose to be even more selective about which events to support. Ultimately, this can cause more stress for club leaders who must choose whether to support more general events or to save their funds for more club member-specific activities.

They may also try to make up for the loss of money by hosting even more fundraising events, which could saturate the student environment.

Clubs should not have to be put under this scrutiny because they are told saving money from previous years is "poor accounting practice." If anything, splurging and making sure the money is gone before it can be absorbed is a poor accounting practice. This can be a bad example for students trying to budget themselves, which is especially important in a college environment.

Fundraising events are crucial when it

comes to Wilkes clubs and will become even more vital due to this funding change. Clubs will have to put what money they have left, whether it's from Student Government or even out of their own pocket to develop an event that could raise more money.

This becomes a challenge to students outside of clubs because not only are clubs asking for more money, but students may try to budget both college funds and other personal dues. This could make club fundraisers more challenging. Even if a club fundraiser does well, clubs will have no choice but to spend all of the money raised because that money will not be secured in the following year. Each year, clubs will go back to square one.

Overall, this recent decision to absorb unused club funds is a poor choice because it will not only teach students poor budgeting skills, which is ironic given the reason for this decision, but it will also add on to the stress that students are already feeling in college.

Now they will have to be increasingly selective of what to spend their money on and when.

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

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# Analyzing toxic fandoms: Are they inescapable?

By Leah Smith

Asst. Opinion Editor

Fandoms are communities where fans across all forms of media can gather, whether in-person or online, to discuss, debate and celebrate the particular work of media that they enjoy. However, what has become present in modern fandom is toxicity, whether that toxicity is towardsanother fan, an upcoming project or a creator within that community.

Toxic fandoms can be more than this; however, there's toxic behavior from fans that can come out of love for a celebrity or project but gets lost in translation. The most common is the toxic behavior from fans that are negative, which mostly comes from criticism and a fan's personal biases.

One of the most popular examples of a toxic fandom is Star Wars. Star Wars fans are one of, if not the most, commonly known fanbase for their toxic fans and have even been dubbed by the internet as "The Fandom Menace." The rise of this "Fandom Menace" wasn't prevalent until Disney acquired Lucasfilm and Star Wars back in 2012. Fans had skeptic opinions about how the family-friendly company would handle the franchise, and those opinions were sought out in 2015 with the release of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens."

Although loved by critics and general audiences, hardcore fans within the Star Wars fandom were unhappy with what Disney was doing with Star Wars, claiming that certain details weren't accurate to previous Star Wars projects. They also argued that the female protagonist Rey was a "Mary Sue" or that having a female protagonist was a "woke" idea.

Opinions like these become more loud and unavoidable as Disney continues pumping out more projects that make superfans more and more unhappy. Most recently, the Disney+ original "The Acolyte" was a victim to the Star Wars fandom even before the premiere. Many fans were once again throwing around the word "woke" due to the show starring a female black protagonist, and when the show finally did make its debut on the service, fans were "review-bombing" the show across all

platforms and saying extreme things like the franchise is dead.

These hyperbolic claims and personal biases that these particular fans throw out have gotten to the point where the stars of these projects themselves have gotten fed up with the unfair criticism. According to Variety, "The Acolyte" star, Amandla Stenberg spoke out on her Instagram story against the online "trolls" and said that she wasn't surprised that they were receiving such harsh reactions and that she was experiencing "a rampage of hyperconservative bigotry and vitriol."

The other half of the toxic fandom is one previously mentioned where fans are toxic out of love for a project or a celebrity and end up becoming toxic due to uncomfortable behavior. This is a major case when this comes to the music scene. Fans of musical artists have been known for their toxic behavior, whether it comes from different people within the fandom, psychologically or a mixture of both.

Recently, rising pop star Chappell Roan spoke out on Instagram about many fans who have made her uncomfortable.. She said that her fans have stalked her online or in-person, claimed that they knew certain things about her personal life and called her by her real name. Fans like these may not know that this type of behavior is toxic given how this type of superfan or "stan" behavior has become very popularized by social media. Women in the music industry, such as Britney Spears and Amy Winehouse, are the most targeted when it comes to this type of superfan behavior.

Not every fan is like this of course, and most people who are a part of these fandoms and engage in these types of behaviors are a vocal minority. Will toxicity among fandoms ever end?

The short answer is no, but what people in fandoms need to learn is that fandom at first is meant to be a community. There is a reason why people reach out to these communities, and it's not because they want to bash each other and the projects they engage with. Fans reach out to these communities because they want to connect with others who love the same medium that they do.

# The Icebox: An in-depth review of "Neon White"

By "Freeze"

Opinion Staff Writer

Over the summer, I decided to turn up the heat a little with the PC Game Pass. I was able to try quite a few titles, but the one that really caught my attention was a first-person, parkour-shooter game called "Neon White."

You play as a character called Neon White, an assassin from hell who was given a unique chance to redeem himself of his sins. Basically, the purgatory department in heaven told Neon White and the other assassins of hell that they may compete for a sacred object called the Mechanical Halo, which allows the user to reside in heaven. This is the only chance that the assassins have of escaping hell, and the competition lasts for seven days. Our protagonist, Neon White, realizes that some of the other assassins seem familiar and that he may have known them in a past life. While aiming to be the victor of this competition and claim the halo, he also wants to uncover the mysteries of heaven by connecting with these assassins and finding out their truths.

This is a single-player experience in which a Neon White maneuvers through beautifully designed levels while shooting demons and reaching the goal as fast as possible. Imagine if you gave Mario a gun, first-person POV, and set him into a series of short levels—maybe not the best analogy but it's true.

You might think this sounds like Doom or Halo, but it is very different in structure. First of all, the "levels" are quite literally just small areas in empty space with a set number of obstacles, weapons and enemies. Each weapon appears in the form of a Soul Card, which can be picked up and has limited ammo. A player can have three of the same card and hold two different types of cards. With such equipment, Neon White can speed through a level and must defeat all of the demons before reaching the goal. It is normal for him to never take damage or run out of ammunition, and there are no cutscenes to interrupt the graceful experience.

Another important function of the Soul Cards are their respective discard ability. Each gun has a special effect when you discard it. For example, the pistol allows you to double-jump when discarded, the rifle lets you shoot an explosive and the shotgun lets you dash forward. A player must make optimal use of both the shooting mechanic and the discard mechanic for each Soul Card in order to complete a level. Some enemies drop a weapon when defeated, which often lets a player know how to further optimize their route in the level.

There are also bonus levels which are unlocked by claiming hidden gifts in the main levels and delivering them to the other assassins. Neon White engages in a lot of dialogue with them, some of which is slightly romantic as well. The format of this portion of the game is kind of like a dating simulator. I always skip the dialogue so I have no idea what is actually going on between Neon White and the other assassins. All I know is that they respond to his gifts with challenge levels. Neon Yellow's challenges disable discard abilities while Neon Red's levels make excessive use of them. Then there is Neon Violet; her levels are just pure torture.

The speedrun aspect of this game is very important. In fact, it is one of the primary objectives. A player can unlock medals: silver, gold and ace depending on how fast they completed the level. With more experience in a level, Neon White gains "insight," which is literally when the game guides you to beat the level even faster.

Of course, that still won't be enough if you're aiming for the best possible time. The developers kept in mind that speedrunners would test the limits of this game, and so they set even more difficult records and encouraged the speedrun community to beat them. This may sound discouraging, but playing the game even normally makes you feel like a professional. If you enjoy that blissful feeling, I would highly recommend trying this game out.

At the very least, you can compete with your friends for better times. There is a built-in leaderboard for each level that displays global results and that of your friends on Xbox. Try to get your friends to play this game and see who comes out on top.

You never know, maybe you should claim your seat in heaven before it's too late.

#### Following the drama of collapsed historical empires

By Noah Garraoui

Contributing Writer

Near the end of a massive star's lifespan, it will have fused into heavier and heavier elements until its core turns to iron. At this point, without the outward pressure of the fusion to act against gravity, the core will collapse, releasing a titanic shockwave in a radiant explosion across space. All that remains after this violent passing of a star is clouds of cosmic dust and the diminutive neutron star with barely visible light.

The collapse of an empire can be thought of very similarly. After decades or centuries of expansion and conquest comes a golden age of knowledge, wealth and power, but a decadent ruling class, in a vain attempt to uphold their bloat and in tandem with rampant corruption, leaves a supermassive hollow shell ready to collapse in on itself. And when that collapse comes, it is usually a spectacle that indicates eminently changing times.

That being said, not every empire is created equal, and granted, as will be discussed, some get off easier than others. In this regard, the saying the higher they rise, the harder they fall rings true.

As a personal aside, I find it poignant to show the reality of how fragile political systems can become. For us living in the modern West, the state's power is unquestionable, as is its ability to maintain order and uphold government functions.

Where else could such a list start,

but with the fall of the Western Roman Empire?

Since Diocletian split the greater empire, the West was essentially doomed to collapse first. The West was beyond cooked, with few naturally defensible barriers, a weak economy, a defunct military and no succession system for the emperor. Even as the Goths under Odoacer were marching on Rome itself, the nobility was still killing each other to put someone or another on the Imperial throne, as if it would matter who the emperor was when there was no empire.

The military tradition had been lost since the empire began, relying on barbarian soldiers who held more loyalty to their tribe than to the empire. As such, each province suffered its fall to either the Visigoths, Vandal, Alamani or Franks. However, the drama of the West's fall had already passed, as Odoacer's conquest wasn't particularly violent. That had come to pass when, 60 years earlier, Alaric sacked the city.

Next up is the fall of the Aztec Empire. When it comes to drama, nothing compares to the intrigue, deception and brutality of the fall of the Aztec Empire. In reality, the Aztec Empire was at the height of its size, power and wealth at the time of the Spanish's arrival. They almost certainly had a couple of good centuries there before nature took its course.

Emperor Montezuma initially received Hernan Cortez diplomatically, but the Spanish motives quickly became apparent: their want for gold. In a "preemptive" strike, Cortes took the

Emperor hostage in an attempt to rule the Aztecs through him. Then, during a festival, his lieutenant massacred the Aztec nobility.

With such a show of force, the city of Tenochtitlan finally conceded to Spanish rule. Except they didn't, and a full-scale rebellion took place. The puppet emperor was killed, and the Spanish were on the run out of the city. The Spanish didn't hope to defeat the Aztecs on their own, but they (the A z t e c s) had so

had so
many enemies
because oppressing and
sacrificing people in
neighboring cities
does not make you
many friends.
With their
native allies.

Tenochtitlan was besieged. Beset on all sides and affected by disease and starvation, the city fell, marking the Aztec Empire's

Last up is the fall of the Ottoman Empire. In its heyday, the Ottoman Empire posed an existential crisis for the rest of Europe. It had conquered the most central portions of the Muslim world and seemed poised to direct its conquests into Europe.

However, with its defeat at Vienna and the strengthening of Europe through its colonies in the New World, as well as technological innovation, the primacy of the Ottoman Empire was in rapid decline. Like Poland-Lithuania, its lands would be partitioned between the European powers until,

by the onset of WWI, all that remained was its core territories.

Ι will hand it to the Ottoman Empire; throwing in with Germany during WWI was a solid gambit. While it was in no position to expand, with German victory, it could, at the very least, prevent its further partition. Wah wah wah, Germany lost,

and the Ottomans will be further partitioned.

Although, here, I want to end on a high note. Though the Entente planned to completely carve up the Ottomans, even occupying the Imperial core of Anatolia, the Attaturk, in a stunning military campaign, prevented the total occupation of modern Turkey and won a comparatively fair treaty.

Graphic by Laura De Lora

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Asst. Opinion Editor: leah.smith@wilkes.edu Asst. Opinion Editor: logan.colonna@wilkes.edu



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### Why you should play tabletop role-playing games

#### Dungeons and Dragons and beyond

**By Shawn Carey** Opinion Staff Writer

I'm sure that we have all at least heard of the game Dungeons and Dragons. Honestly at this point it's pretty hard to miss. You may have learned about it from series such as "Stranger Things," "Critical Role" and "Baldur's Gate." These are just some of the massive franchises that involve the popular roleplaying game (RPG).

Each of the formerly mentioned series' stories contain one of two things: characters playing D&D or characters existing in the world of D&D. Mentions of D20s and eldritch monsters fill the mouths of the protagonists, painting a very specific picture for the viewer.

With that being said, what exactly do you think D&D is about?

The first thing that comes to mind is probably an image of a bunch of nerds sitting around a table rolling dice and fighting monsters with their imagination, which is honestly pretty accurate. However, that is only half of the game.

The second half of the game is almost never shown: the roleplaying aspect.

When you play Dungeons and Dragons, you take on the role of a character of your own personal creation. You control every aspect of your character, everything from their name, race, class, weapons, spells, backstory and most importantly, their personality.

When you play D&D, you don't just play as a fantastical character, you become them.

This isn't exclusive to Dungeons and Dragons, however. Most tabletop RPGs have you become your characters.

There are many different RPGs genres. The most popular tends to be fantasy, which includes games such as Pathfinder, Vampire: The Masquerade and Call Cthulhu. There also tends to be a decent amount of sci-fi games, like Starfinder, Cyberpunk Red and Traveler, just to name a few.

There's also the case of license RPGs. The Last Airbender, Transformers, Marvel, Power Rangers and Star Wars are just a handful of the franchises that have received tabletop games.

Due to the sheer number of different settings and potentially characters, there is an infinite number of ways to play, which is why I believe that everyone should play tabletop RPGs.

First off, let's talk about the story. Imagine all of the works of fiction that you have enjoyed in your life. Think of the compelling narratives, lovable characters, passionate villains and hilarious moments in them.

D&D is not just a game, but rather, it is a way to take these stories and allow you and your friends to become the main characters by roleplaying.

One of the most defining features of D&D is that imagination is the limit. If there is ever something you have wanted to do, you can make it happen. Instead of just watching or reading a story, you get to be a part of it.

There's weight behind your actions. What you say, who you attack and how you handle certain situations all matter. You're in direct control of the story; it's a totally unique experience that you can't really find anywhere else.

While you may have control over what happens, it's not total control. Every action is determined by rolling dice, most commonly the D20, or a 20sided dice. The dice have just as much influence over the story as the players

You can't just say that you want to throw a fireball at a goblin. You have to roll for it. High rolls are successful while low rolls are failures. The unpredictable nature of the dice builds tension and helps create stakes at the table. It can also lead to some truly epic moments like rolling a natural 20, also known as a critical success.

Now, not every tabletop game uses the same dice system. However, they tend to all have something very similar, such as the Marvel RPG's d616 system.

Sometimes a campaign doesn't go as smoothly as planned. For example, a poor dice roll can totally derail an encounter or even a whole game. When this happens, the players and Dungeon Master (DM) usually have to find a creative way to get the story back on

Tabletop games are a fantastic creative outlet. I am a firm believer that everyone should do something at least a little bit creative. Having a good creative outlet can be beneficial to one's mental wellbeing and help to allow one to express themselves.

Between the character creation, the story possibilities and general aesthetic, tabletop games are filled to the brim with creative possibilities.

The best part of all of this is that playing TTRPG is a group activity. You're not creating this world of chaos all by yourself. There's this sense of partnership that comes with every action. Everyone's attached to their respective characters wants and the best for them.

It's also judgment free zone. You are allowed to get as nerdy as you want to get. Your character can be whatever you want them to be.

I will say that from a distance, it seems intimidating. pretty New players tend to believe that they need a whole shopping list of items. Everything rule from books,

and a DM screen.

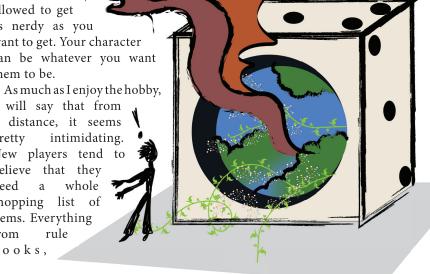
Now, don't get me wrong, all of that definitely helps. However, the reality of the situation is much simpler. All you need is some friends and an internet connection. You can find most of the material needed online.

There are plenty of websites that offer countless free and easy to use resources. D&D Beyond, Owlbear Rodeo and Roll 20 are just some of the websites that can help you get started.

With that being said, I do recommend at least buying a set of dice and at the very least a starter set. You can of course just use a virtual dice roller; however, to me rolling a physical dice feels much more satisfying.

As you probably noticed, I really like tabletop gaming. It's a fun game to play with friends, a great way to be creative and overall just a positive experience. If you ever want to escape the real world for a few hours, I highly recommend trying out at least one tabletop game.

Plus you can finally understand what the kids from "Stranger Things" are talking about.



miniatures, a battle map, character sheets, multiple sets of dice, a dice tower

Graphic by Laura De Lora

#### Destroy Lonely releases "LOVE LASTS FOREVER"

#### A track-by-track album review

By Logan Colonna

Asst. Opinion Editor

Atlanta rapper Destroy Lonely is back again with another project titled "LOVE LASTS FOREVER."

He has a lot to prove with this album, since he's been attempting to recapture the success he saw with his 2022 project "NO STYLIST" ever since it debuted. While I am excited for this record, I personally am not expecting much after hearing recent singles and features.

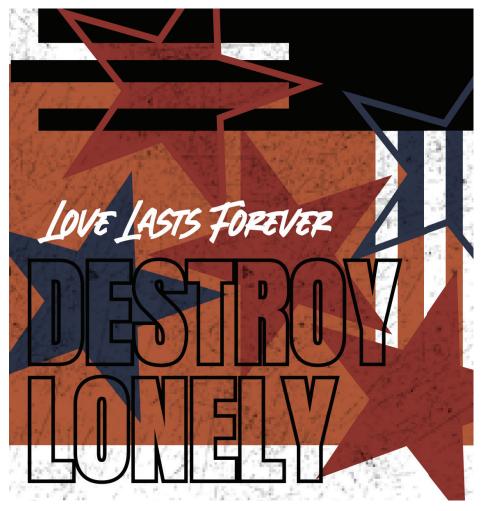
Starting off, we have the performance of Destroy Lonely, or Lone for short as I will refer to him for the rest of this review. Lone isn't necessarily known for his great bouts of lyricism and flow across his whole catalog; he more so lets the production do the talking on most tracks typically. This is no different on this record.

Even after listening to the album five times, each track vocally still blends together and I can't tell a lot of them apart from each other when casually listening.

This is a huge issue I see in music nowadays: when artists can't figure out how to correctly differentiate each track in an album. It makes the listening experience seem like a drag because every song blends together. Especially on a 21-track album, you can see how this can be a huge deciding factor in if the record is good or not.

While I do enjoy what Lone brings to each track with his vocals and such, it really does mesh together quickly. This is made even worse when you have artists from the same label that Lone is a part of, like Ken Carson and Homixide Gang, who do the exact same thing as him. At the end of the day, while Lone's vocal style is appreciated at times, he needs to change up severely or he'll cease to have a fanbase besides his super loyal listeners.

With only two features on the album, coming from Lil Uzi Vert and Ken Carson, I wish there were more in all honesty. This comes from the fact that



a lot of the tracks end up sounding the same. With more artists collaborating, the more different the album can actually be.

With this being said, I value the two features we did get heavily. Uzi easily had the better of the two features here when performing on "LOVE HURTS." With his verse, we got a more melodic side of Uzi, which really does help separate this track from the rest of the record.

Now with Ken Carson, although he does sound extremely similar to Lone, his feature is still a nice addition to the tracklist. The track "THRILL" as a whole is one of my favorites off of the album as well, with Ken Carson helping that decision be made.

After being pleased with these two features, I can safely say that they are easily the best part of the entire album.

Next, the production. Just like Lone's vocals, the production from track to track is quite similar as well. Each track opens up with the same kind of predictable beat that you'd see all over Youtube when searching "Destroy Lonely Type Beat." It's baffling to me to see each instrumental lack so much personality.

On top of that, the production is somewhat sleepy throughout the album, leaving me to genuinely fall asleep on my first two listens of the project. I get if that is the point of your music, but as a trap artist, I highly doubt Lone wants this to happen to listeners when first

playing his album.

This being paired up with Lone's vocals allows the album to take forever to finish from beginning to end, and it's not a good ride.

With this being said, I do have a few outliers of his usual approach to the instrumentation. These being "LOVE HURTS" and "THRILL." Besides these two tracks, everything else is a bore to listen to.

The production as a whole on this record is lackluster at best.

With all of what was said prior, this album is not replayable whatsoever. Like I've said before, nearly every track ends up blending together with three or four exceptions. Between the bland sounding vocals from Lone, and uninspired-sounding instrumentals, if you hear one track, you've heard them all. With this record having an hour and four minute runtime, the soundscape gets boring very quickly. By my fourth listen of this album, I wanted to skip so many tracks just to get to the end.

Overall, beyond listening a few times for this review, I do not see myself coming back to this album whatsoever, besides playing three tracks maximum.

This album is not very good at all. Lone attempted to revitalize his career, since he disappointed heavily with his 2023 project, "If Looks Could Kill." However, he just dug himself an even deeper hole with this record.

To improve, Lone could at the very least reduce the amount of tracks on his albums. No one in this day in age wants to sit there for 21 tracks for any artist, especially if their performance isn't even good. To add on, Lone needs to harshly change his style. While it does work to a degree, I am personally tired of his specific style, even more so with multiple artists adapting to this style now.

After all is said and done, this album is a 2 out of 10 for me.

Graphic by Lara Mullen

# Sports

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

## Women's soccer preview

By Ava Tureen

Sports Staff Writer

The women's soccer team's season started on Aug. 31 against Oswego State. Their season is off to a difficult start; however it is still very early on.

On Sept. 11, the team goes against Kings College at 7 p.m. at King's College.

John McNichol is in his seventh season at Wilkes as the women's team head coach. McNichol always has his team's best interest at heart.

"Everything myself and my coaching staff does deal with building confidence in our student-athletes hoping to make them efficient decision makers on the field and role models off the field," McNichol said.

"We want our student-athletes to be confident people who are willing to be great people on and off the field. We preach getting better every day and putting yourself in situations to better yourself and others."

He has a diverse team of talent and 12 new freshmen this season.

Delaney Yarcas is a first-year goaltender from Butler, Pa. Yarcas has played in both games so far this season. She is adjusting well to being a college athlete and is working hard to improve.

"If I get scored on or make a mistake I mentally reset and focus on fixing that mistake and making myself better. Also, dealing with mental blocks is so much easier when you have a supportive team by your side, like the Wilkes women's soccer team."

On Sept. 4 the, team went against William Paterson University. The game tied with a score of 2-2.

During the game, Taylor Anthony and Erin Edwards both had goals.

Katie Sites is a senior from Collegeville, Pa. She had a shot on

goal during the game. Sites said she switches up her strategies depending on who they are competing against.

"Before every game, we watch film of the team we are playing," Sites said

"Our coach also sends us a scout before every game that gives us information on each player, what formation the opponent plays, and tips for how to succeed in the game against that specific team. From this, I pull out the information pertinent to my position and try to memorize that as best I can. I usually know a lot about the center midfielders on the other team since that is who I mostly mark. Other than that I try not to overthink things too much and just play my hardest."

This is only the start of the season and the team is working hard every day to put up a good fight.

McNichol finds it important for the team to come together after a hard loss and see where they went wrong and what they did right.

"We always look at moments in a game where we can find positives and then in areas where we struggled, what can we do to grow and learn. Soccer mirrors life in many

ways and we focus on life lessons that can help us find the confidence to come back the next day and train/play with a highintensity level would that allow us to reach our goals for the next game," he said.

## Men's soccer preview

By Ava Tureen

Sports Staff Writer

The men's soccer team won its game opener on Aug. 30 against Maywood with a score of 2-0. During the Marywood game, Herbert Ramirez and Elijah Emedoh-Kaba both scored a point with an assist from Lucas Saliani.

Herbert Ramirez is a senior from Hightstown, New Jersey. Ramirez is a co-captain with Xavier Guerreiro, who is also a senior from Newtown, Pa. Both of them are having a great start to their season. Ramirez has 1 goal and Guerreiro has two goals already this season.

Guerreiro was given an honorable mention All-MAC Freedom as a sophomore in 2022. He hopes to win the NCAA tournament this season.

"It would feel great to win it as a senior and a little added motivation is that no one else thinks we can do it."

The team made the 2021 MAC Freedom Tournament for the first time in 12 years.

In the 2024 season, the team has lost two games, won 1 game, and tied 1 game so far this season. Herbert Ramirez keeps the team positive

through the wins and losses.

game team gathering
where we stand in
a circle and say
whatever is on our
minds. I always
tell the team we
stay humble, and
carry on to the
next game. Where
we will be stronger

and hungry for a

"We always have a post-

This season the team welcomes nine first-year

win."

players to the team. Michael Piranian is the head coach of the men's soccer team. He is in his eighth season with the team.

Freshman Alex Lacson from Manassas, Va, and he plays midfield. Lacson describes becoming a college athlete as a difficult adjustment but it was made easier with the help of his coaches, teammates, and family. His goals for this season are to improve overall on and off the field.

"By working on my technical ability, it will help me improve on getting out of high-pressure situations within the game, and by improving on the tactical aspect of the game, it will help me improve on making better decisions on the field. By learning to improve on these skills it will also help the communication among my teammates as well as build a strong connection with them."

This season goaltender Matthew Conti has played a total of 315 minutes so far this season. During the Ithaca game, he had a season-high of 11 saves and hopes to continue down that path.

"I feel that a save that does not get enough credit would be one I made this past Monday against Ithaca. It was a scramble inside the box and I made a split save to get my foot to the ball and keep it out. My favorite save would be my save against Marywood in our first game of the season to keep the clean sheet. It was a one-on-one midway through the first half and I just barely got a hand to the ball."

Conti is a sophomore from Florence, New Jersey, and has had the opportunity to play during his freshman and sophomore seasons.

The team goes up against Misericordia University at 3:30 p.m. on Sept. 14.

Graphic by Sydney Allabaugh

#### The Palestra to host Wilkes basketball for 2024 season

**By Andrew Marshallsay** 

Sports Staff Writer

The Palestra, known to many as the "cathedral of college basketball" will once again be host to a few Landmark Conference basketball games. Early next year, both of Wilkes' basketball teams will play games as part of the 2025 Gameday at the Palestra, hosted by the conference.

On Jan. 12, 2025, The Colonels will face Elizabethtown College in two of the four Landmark Conference games at the historic venue in Philadelphia. The other two matchups are between Moravian University and Lycoming College.

The 2025 games will mark the third year in a row that the Landmark Conference is holding games at the Palestra. For Wilkes, it's the first time they will play at the venue as a member of the Landmark.

It will be a return to the Palestra for the first time since 2022, when the men's team played against UPenn. The Colonels fell to the Quakers 93-61 and will hope to leave

this time with a win against a conference rival in two marquee matchups.

Since opening its doors in 1927, the Palestra has held more games than any other college gym in the country. The venue is currently home to about half of the Philadelphia Big 5 Conference regular season games, as well as the conference's championship game.

Wilkes' Athletic Director Scott Musa is excited for the upcoming games.

"We are so excited about this opportunity to play at the Palestra. It is an iconic college basketball venue and a chance to play there is truly special. We have some plans to invite alumni and fans to a venue close to the facility that will even make a more memorable event for our men and women," he said.

Musa also emphasized the studentathlete experience. "This is just one more example of why the Landmark is such a great conference for our student-athletes. They are going to have a great time playing in these games," Musa concluded. Men's basketball Head Coach Izzi Metz says his team is excited as well. "You know, we're excited to play at the 'cathedral of college basketball,' such a historic venue. We were lucky enough two seasons ago to play against Penn at the Palestra. For some of our guys, it'll be a second trip there playing, and I know they're excited about that after their first experience," he said

"For our new guys to have that as well, it's definitely something on the horizon with scheduling that we looked at. We thought this would be a cool opportunity and to play a conference game on top of it gives it more meaning for us," Metz concluded.

Women's basketball Head Coach Al Berger emphasized student-athlete experience. "It's an exciting thing obviously that we get to do it. I do think that overall the way the Landmark approaches is an opportunity to enhance the student-athlete experience; that's what we are all about, providing the best possible experience we can for our team," he said.

This is just another great thing we get to

do, thanks to the Landmark. I am a New Englander, I didn't know much about the Palestra until a couple of years ago. I enjoyed learning about the venue, and now that we get to play there is really exciting," Berger commented.

As the excitement builds for the upcoming season, everyone involved, from the athletic department to the coaching staff and players of both the women's and men's teams are raring to go for the trip down to the City of Brotherly Love.

The Colonels and Blue Jays will play in the first two of four marquee matchups, with the women's team taking the court at noon. The men play shortly afterward, facing off at 2:30 p.m.

Later in the day, Moravian and Lycoming will play their games at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Ticket information will be released in the coming weeks. For more information, visit the Landmark Conference at www. landmarkconference.org or www. gowilkesu.com.



#### Wilkes University 2024 field hockey season preview

By Sam Mullen

Asst. Sports Editor

As the 2024 field hockey season approaches, the Wilkes University Colonels are gearing up for what promises to be an exciting and competitive year. With a mix of returning talent and promising newcomers, the team is focused on building on last season's experiences to push further in the Landmark Conference.

Coach Ashlev Irwin is in her second season as the head coach of the field hockey team at Wilkes University. In her first season at Wilkes and the teams first season in the Landmark Conference, Irwin led the Colonels to a 4-5 conference record and a 9-9 overall record.

Sophomore forward Morgan Hermanofski led the team in goals with eight for the year. Senior midfielder Olivia Gayoski followed shortly after with six goals. As a team, the Colonels averaged two goals a game, finishing with 36 total on the year. More than half of the goals for the year were assisted, totally 23 on the year.

With six players from last year leaving, the 12 freshmen this year have some big shoes to fill.

"The first-years have really worked hard during preseason and we are continuing to become closer on and off the field," said senior forward and captain, Bridget Rosenfeld. "We have not had a class this large in quite a while but I feel that they have integrated well into our team and we are so excited to see their impact on the field."

Senior captain Morgan Millard

"This season we were able to bring in a decent amount of new players. It can be difficult to transition from high school to intercollegiate athletics, but lots of our new players have proven that they are willing to take on that challenge," Millard said.

"They have contributed significantly to our team by bringing in new energy and a new style of play. I'm excited to see how they continue to adapt and grow into college players throughout the rest of the season," she added.

home game on Aug. 31 against Oswego State. Senior midfielder Lexie Nevel put the Lady Colonels on the board first within the first minute and a half of the game. Nevel was able to get a goal off of a rebound from Rosenfeld's shot. Hermanofski followed a few minutes later, gaining a two to zero lead.

Right before halftime, midfielder Kellie Scott brought the Colonel's to a two goal advantage after receiving a pass from senior forward Morgan Millard. Both first-year goaltenders Isabel Snyder and Olivia Wickel made a debut with Snyder having five saves and Wickel with one.

After reflecting on the first game and win of the season, Rosenfeld said, "This season has started out great so far, we have great team chemistry even with a large first year class and it is showing on the field. The returners came back strong and we played like a true team last Saturday against Oswego."

Coach Irwin feels hopeful about the upcoming season.

"The team looked great during

The team already had their first preseason and stayed healthy, which was huge for us. Hosted our first Quad-Scrimmage with Division II school's- Mercy and STAC, along with LVC joining us. Thought they had an awesome offensive debut at home with our season opener against Oswego. We want to play a fast offense with fresh legs (subs) often; we're excited to see where it takes us," she said.

This past Wednesday, the Colonels traveled to William Paterson University where they sadly lost 3-2 after a double overtime. Rosenfeld got the Colonels on the board first after receiving a pass from first-year midfielder/forward Shaelyn Donnelly. She also got the second goal for the Colonels which was off of a penalty corner from Millard.

In goal, Isabel Snyder started and finished the game, making a total of five saves. Olivia Wickel also made an appearance, making one save.

Next week, the Colonels will travel to face cross-town rival King's College in a 9/11 Memorial game at 4 p.m.

## The new NFL season excites football fans everywhere

**By Adam Grundt** 

Asst. Sports Editor

The crisp fall conditions mean one thing for sports fans: the return of football.

The Kansas City Chiefs and Baltimore Ravens are set to open up the 2024 NFL season on Thursday, Sept. 5. Quarterback Patrick Mahomes as well as tight end Travis Kelce are looking to bring Kansas City back to the Super Bowl once again, while Lamar Jackson and newly-signed running back Derrick Henry are looking to bring the Baltimore Ravens to the big game for the first time in over 10 years. Wide receiver Zay Flowers is looking to have a breakout year in 2024.

While many question marks rise in the Kansas City Chiefs wide receiving room, Rashee Rice is also looking to do the same as Flowers and have a breakout season.



This upcoming NFL season looks to be exciting with many team, players, and storylines all coming to a head.

Elsewhere in the league, the first overall pick in the 2024 draft, Caleb Williams, is looking to bring the Chicago Bears back to a level of dominance that has not been seen since the team's last Super Bowl victory in 1985.

Williams, who has been drawing comparisons to Patrick Mahomes, is looking to be the first quarterback to throw for 4,000 in the history of the Bears' franchise.

Earlier this week, he was named the first rookie quarterback captain in the history of the franchise. Fans in Chicago are ecstatic for the success that can potentially come with drafting a prospect like Williams. The Bears are looking to make a return to the playoffs for the first time since 2020.

Closer to campus, the Philadelphia Eagles are looking to make a statement in the NFC East division, a division that is seen as a toss-up to most experts. Two elite teams, the Eagles and the Cowboys, play in that division.

The Eagles turned themselves into a juggernaut with the signing of Saquon Barkley, making them the favorite to win that division and make a deep run into the postseason. The team lost in the first round of the playoffs to the Tampa Bay

Buccaneers last season, after appearing in the Super Bowl the season before.

Wide receivers AJ Brown and Devonta Smith are looking to propel the Eagles back to the "big game" alongside Barkley and star quarterback Jalen Hurts

Coming into the season, the Kansas City Chiefs are the favorites to win their third Super Bowl championship in a row. The team that fell to the Chiefs in last year's game, the San Francisco 49ers, are a close second. Following them are the Ravens, Detroit Lions, and then the

All in all, the fall time means many different things: the return of football, pumpkin spice and the leaves changing colors. This is one of the best times of the calendar year to be a sports fan, and it will inevitably be an exciting season to watch from a fan's perspective.

Photo from Wikimedia Commons

# Athlete of the Week

# **Kellie Scott**

Senior, Women's Field Hockey, Midfield

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

Kellie Scott led the Colonels in total shots and shots on goal with three in the team's season-opening victory over Oswego State. Scott had one goal during the game.

Major: Psychology and Communication Studies Hometown: Northport, ME

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

The field hockey's family tradition of embarrassing ourselves. We all go to tthe local Salvation Army and pick out outageous outfits for one another, followed by a delicious dinner.

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

Boston Bruins, the Eagles.... and the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleading team.

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

Sleep, run and eat yummy food.

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

The people. Wilkes athletes and coaches are gritty, hardworking and push one another to be the best.

#### What sports movie is your go-to for movie night? Creed or Miracle

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

Cross country - I just really love to run. Fun fact: I ran 10 miles this summer! Just for fun... and conditioning.

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

I think it's a toss up between making it to the playoffs last season and honestly preseason this year. Preseason was so much fun and seeing where this new generation of Wilkes hockey is going is so exciting to watch and be a part of.

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

A FAT italian sandwich with mayo and spicy pepper relish or mushroom sacchetti from Delvinos in Maine.

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

It feels special, especially to represent my teammattes and coaches. Truly I am so excitted to see what this season brings and really push athletically towards our team goals. #DoHardWell

Compiled by Samantha Mullen

#### The Beacon//Samantha Mullen

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

# Athlete of the Week Aidan Graff

First-Year, Men's Cross Country

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

Aidan Graff finished 15th overall during the season opener at Misericordia University. In his first collegiae race, Graff finished with a time of 13:00.

Major: Environmental Engineering Hometown: Scranton, Pa.

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

My favorite sports memory .as a Colonel is the friendships I made with my teammates before the season started

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

I don't really have a favorite professional sports team.

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

Favorite thing to do away from sports is having fun with friends.

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

My favorite part about being an athlete at Wilkes is being able to run at the collegiate level.

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

"Remember the Titans"

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

If I didn't run cross country I would probably be playing soccer. I played it during my freshman and sophomore year of high school and throughout my childhood.

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

My favorite sports memory is when I became the District 2 champion for the 3200m during my senior year of high school.

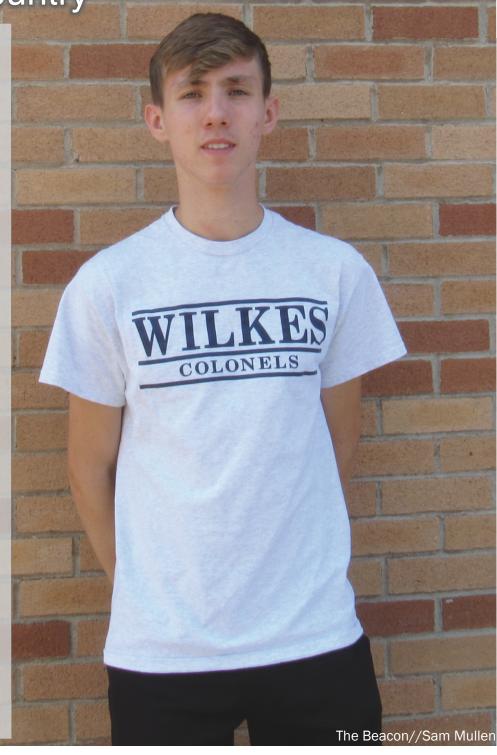
#### What is your favorite post-game meal?

My pre-meet meal is always pasta. I don't really have a post-meet meal; it's wherever the teams wants to stop.

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

I feel honored to be seleced as Athlete of the Week. I didn't even know it existed.

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## Door's open!

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

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



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

