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WVU's Independent Student Newspaper WEDNESDAY APRIL 6, 2022 www.thedaonline.com

Hall of Famer Bob Huggins

WVU legend gets the call after nearly fifty years

BY CAMREN GANDEE
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

It's about damn time.

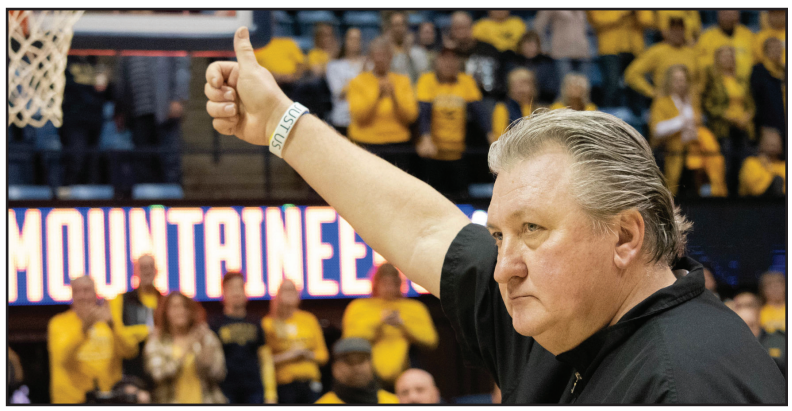
After a phone call 45 years in the making, WVU basketball coach Bob Huggins will be enshrined in the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame as a member 2022 class.

The highly anticipated honor is now a reality for the Mountaineer great, as nearly fifty years of immense success has led to an orange jacket.

Before becoming the legendary college coach that fans see gracing the sidelines today, Huggins got his start as a player on the hardwood.

The Morgantown, W.Va. native suited up for the Ohio Bobcats in his freshman year of college after being named Ohio's player of the year for Indian Valley South High School in 1972.

After just a season with the Bobcats, Huggins took his talents a state over where he would play for the Mountaineers from 1975 to 1977.



STAFF PHOTO

WVU head coach Bob Huggins walks off the court after defeating Missouri 74-51 at the WVU Coliseum on January 25, 2020.

Huggins experienced his highest level of playing success in the blue and gold, posting a 9.8 scoring average on 47% shooting in three seasons. 81 of his 99 career games were played with the Mountaineers.

At the conclusion of his playing career, Huggins quickly turned to coaching by taking stewardship of the Walsh College basketball team from 1980 to 1983. In his brief time with the squad he led them to a 71-26 (.732) record.

Following a number of other stints with the Akron, Cincinnati, and Kansas State programs, Huggins would finally take over as head coach of his hometown Mountaineers in 2007.

In the 15 seasons that Huggins has represented the mountain state, he has accumulated over 300 wins and 10 NCAA tournament appearances. He was also named the Big 12 coach of the year for WVU in 2014-15.

In 45 total seasons of coaching, Huggins has participated in March Madness on 25 occasions, including four Elite Eight finishes and two appearances in the Final Four (1992, 2010).

The man dubbed 'Huggy Bear' has racked up a combined 916 wins to just 399 losses (.697) over his storied coaching career, good for the sixth-most wins among Division 1 coaches of all-time, and fourth among active coaches.

These statistical accolades have brought with them a number of individual honors for Huggins.

In his tenure with the Cincinnati Bearcats, he was named the Conference USA Coach of the Year on three consecutive occasions (1998-2000), in addition to earning Sporting News Coach of the Year honors in 2000 and the ESPN.com National Coach of the Year in 2002.

Huggins is one of thirteen legendary basketball figures set to be enshrined at the Hall of Fame ceremony on Sept. 9 and 10. He will be joined by NBA greats Manu Ginobili and Tim Hardaway, in addition to NBA coaching legend George Karl and WNBA stars Swin Cash and Lindsay Whalen.

In a storied coaching career that spans 45 years, Huggins has cultivated a legacy built upon winning and consistency. With an extensive record of accolades and honors tied to his name, it is only fitting that 'hall of famer' be added to the list.

Next stop for Huggins; Springfield, Mass.

Lawsuit alleges WVU racially discriminated against employee

BY DUNCAN SLADE AND JULES OGDEN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND BREAKING NEWS EDITOR

A former Black employee of West Virginia University said in a lawsuit filed Tuesday that he was racially discriminated against and harassed for over a year and a half by coworkers and his supervisor who made "constant belittling and racist comments" thus creating a hostile work environment.

Former WVU IT Services employee Wayne Van Ellis alleges that WVU did nothing to improve his working conditions and that he was fired because he is Black and has a disability.

The lawsuit was filed in Monongalia County Circuit Court on Tuesday against the WVU Board of Governors and Van Ellis' former supervisor Brice Knotts. He seeks financial relief for his loss of employment, lost wages and mental anguish.

Van Ellis alleges that WVU and Knotts discriminated and retaliated against him based on his race and disability while creating a hostile work environment in violation of the West Virginia Human Rights Act.

"I don't feel that I'm an anomaly," Van Ellis said in an interview, alleging in the lawsuit that WVU and his former supervisor discriminated against him intentionally and systematically.

He began working at WVU at the beginning of 2018 as a consultant and later became an assistant director for Banner, a system that houses student and employee information. He said that he relocated for the job after WVU recruited him and that he had bought a house in Morgantown.

"I think there is a disconnect that WVU has to come to terms with in who they say they are, and what they really are," Van Ellis said in an interview. "Because one of the things that brought me to WVU was basically the pamphlets they have with minority students. They're saying they're inclusive and they're champions of diversity, blah, blah, blah, but once you close that pamphlet, there's nothing much there."

He was terminated on April 30, 2021, after his employment was not renewed. The suit says he was previously informed in writing that he would be renewed if his performance was sufficient.

It further states that his "performance was never in question and in fact, exceeded expectations. Nonetheless because he is African American, WVU chose to non-renew his contract rather than stand up to racism in his department."

The suit says that Van Ellis, who has over 30 years of experience, often had his capability questioned by his supervisor and that he was subject to racially motivated complaints or comments in his workplace.

The lawsuit states that Van Ellis sought medical treatment for mental health issues caused by the discrimination he was experiencing. Further, it states the hostile work environment created by WVU and his supervisor exacerbated his previously diagnosed disabilities causing him to seek further treatment.

The suit states "no action was taken to correct or remedy the harassment" after Van Ellis repeatedly brought his concerns to the attention of management.

Van Ellis and the coworkers who were harassing him signed a letter agreeing to treat each other with respect and diversity training was conducted. The suit alleges neither stopped the harassment.

"I've never felt this level of racial animus anywhere in the work environment," Van Ellis said, adding that "this animosity is almost like ignorance in such a way, because they're not even aware of what they're doing."

WVU spokeswoman April Kaull declined to comment on the matter because it is pending litigation.

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MARCH 30
1:44 p.m. | Citation
Evansdale Drive
Traffic Stop.

MARCH 30
6:19 p.m. | Resolved
WVU Mountainlair
Air Gun Complaint.

MARCH 30
11:18 p.m. | Unfounded
WVU Braxton Tower
Drug Incident.

MARCH 31
12:42 a.m. | Resolved
Sigma Chi Fraternity
Assist Agency Fire.

MARCH 31
11:06 a.m. | Inactive
WVU Mountainlair
Petit Larceny.

MARCH 31
1:49 p.m. | Resolved
Mountainlair Parking Garage
Vehicle Accident.

MARCH 31
8:05 p.m. | Resolved
WVU Vandalia Hall
Unsecure Building.

MARCH 31
9:17 p.m. | Citation
WVU Boreman South
Drug Incident.

MARCH 31
9:52 p.m. | Resolved
Chi Omega Sorority
Air Gun Complaint.

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NEWS

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‘Trans people are real’: WVU students decry anti-LGBTQ bills in other states

BY LUKE BLAIN
STAFF WRITER

Dozens of WVU students gathered outside the Mountainlair on March 30, ahead of the Transgender Day of Visibility, to highlight achievements made by transgender individuals and spread awareness about the discrimination facing transgender and gender-nonconforming people.

The event was organized by members of the WVU LGBTQ+ Club, which became an official student organization later that night at the WVU Student Government Association meeting.

The demonstration was also in response to anti-LGBTQ+ legislation across the country. In Florida, the “Don’t say Gay Bill,” which bans the discussion of sexual orientation in classrooms is currently moving through the statehouse as well as Texas legislation to investigate parents of trans kids for child abuse.

Eri Robison, a transgender student who attended the protest, is disturbed by those bills.

“It’s really upsetting to me,” Robison said. “And so I want to be here to raise awareness that we exist and we’re not monsters and we just want to be treated like other people.”

Trans Day of Visibility was started in 2009 by activist Rachel Crandall in order to create more recognition of transgender people within the LGBTQ+ community. Transgender Day of Remembrance, which honors trans people who have been murdered as a result of transphobia, already existed. Trans Day of Visibility, however, acknowledges and celebrates transgender people who are currently living.

Hana Barrett, a non-binary student and an organizer of the demonstration, also spoke on the importance of Trans Day of Visibility.

“For a lot of trans people, there is a lot of invisibility,” Barrett said in an interview. “A lot of trans people are not able to own the fact that they’re trans in certain spaces because it’s hard.”

There was also a booth that contained informational flyers. One described the anti-LGBTQ+ legislation being passed across the country and the other had information on the Equality act, which would protect LGBTQ+ citizens from various forms of discrimination.

Along with the flyers, the booth also contained mini pride flags as well as handmade stickers and pins.

Many of the protestors flew the flags provided to them, as well as various larger pride flags. The protestors also carried signs and cheered various chants.

Drivers who were passing by would often honk their horns at protestors in support of their cause. While the protest received much support from the student body, there were those who opposed the demonstration.

“Obviously we’ve had a few people coming out and booing us and stuff,” Barrett said. “But in general, the campus community has been so positive.”

Shannon Dickerson, the other organizer with Barrett, shared her appreciation for those who joined the protest.

“I’m extremely proud of the work we did today, and I’m thankful for everyone that joined us,” Dickerson said in an email.

While Barrett and Dickerson organized the event, the WVU LGBTQ+ Club sponsored the event. Sophia Harker, the event director for the club, was in attendance and spoke on the importance of standing by trans people through adversity.

“We need to get that message out there and know the trans people are real. They’re here and they deserve to not have violence against them in any way,” Harker said in an interview. “And they deserve to be able to access the medical treatment they need for affirmation surgery, for hormone blockers.”

A group of students stand outside the Mountainlair to protest anti-LGBTQ legislation.

Students rally in support of transgender people ahead of the Transgender Day of Visibility.

Banners hang outside the Mountainlair in support for Trans Day of Visibility.

PHOTOS BY JAKE TAYLOR

A WVU student holds a sign during a protest against anti-LGBTQ legislation.

Morgantown pizza shop Lotsa closes after seven years on High Street

BY TRENTON STRAIGHT
NEWS EDITOR

Lotsa Stone Fired Pizza, a late-night favorite of WVU students, is closing after seven years of business on High Street, according to its owners.

"It is with great sadness that we announce the closing of Lotsa Stone Fired Pizza on High Street in Downtown Morgantown," Lotsa said in a post on Instagram. "We want to thank each one of our guests and employees for supporting us for almost 7 years. We are extremely humbled that so many embraced Lotsa and that we were able to keep the restaurant going as long as we did."

The pizza shop is closing due to challenges posed by the pandemic the past two years, according to the post.

"Last night 4/4 we served our last pizza and will miss it dearly," Lotsa said in the past. "Morgantown will always hold a special place in our heart. So many great memories were made at 419 High Street, even the ones you can't remember."

Lotsa first greeted pizza lovers of Morgantown in October 2015, taking over the building that was once occupied by Daniel's Men's Clothing.

The concept for the brick-oven pizza shop began with two graduates, one from Temple University and one from University of Maryland, who decided they wanted to gain experience operating a real restaurant. With the goal of "attacking a college town," Alex Lanasa and Nicole Aust said they fell in love with Morgantown in an interview with The Daily Athenaeum from 2016.

Some people mourned the loss of Lotsa on YikYak, a popular anonymous messaging app among students.

"Thanks for closing lotsa," one user wrote. "This is so notsa good day."

Another user wrote, "We have lost waldos and now [Lotsa] I can only take so much."

Other people lamented over not getting their last slice. And some users expressed their loyalty to Casa D'Amici instead.

"I wish lotsa told us it was closing before hand so we could all go get our last pizzas," one user said.

Some people took to Yik Yak to offer suggestions on what should replace the Lotsa location. Some ideas from users included a new bar, strip club, frat house or a Cook Out restaurant.

Another YikYak user suggested that the community should hold a funeral for the pizza shop, similar to the student-led Sheetz memorial in November 2019.

PHOTO BY SHELBY THOBURN

Lotsa Mozza offered multiple different wood-fired pizzas with customizable options for customers.

STUDENT HEALTH

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

Alcohol addiction and abuse claims thousands of lives across the country each year.

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93 sheep, one donkey found after escaping from WVU animal farm

BY CONNOR GIBBONS
CORRESPONDENT

All's wool that ends wool.

93 sheep and a donkey named Broccoli briefly escaped from the WVU Organic Research Farm in Morgantown this past month due to a broken lock on a pasture gate, a University spokesperson said.

"Our farm personnel were notified that they were spotted along Mileground Road near the Bicentennial house, and they were returned to their pastures within an hour," said Lindsay Willey, director of marketing and communications for the Davis College of Agriculture.

The following afternoon on March 16, WVU Police Department officers arrived on scene to investigate the escape. The gate appeared to be forced open, which made animal farm staff suspect that they may have been freed intentionally, according to the incident report.

Willey said the animals got out due to a broken lock on the gate.

All the animals are now safe and accounted for and farm personnel have installed a new lock on the gate.

Willey said that animal escape from the farm is rare, but it has occurred in the past.

The 93 sheep are collectively called the Organic Farm Ewe Flock and the animals on the farm are used for various research and educational purposes.

The Organic Research Farm consists of 240 acres of certified organic farmland which went organic in 1998. The farm raises a number of crops, poultry and lambs and is among "largest certified organic research farms dedicated to teaching, research and outreach," according to its website.

Current research underway at the farm includes long-term organic farming research, brown marmorated stink bugs habitat use, control of creeping thistle and the health of organic sheep.

The Davis College's 13 farms and forests across the state serve the student body as a living classroom as students get to learn and conduct research in an operational farm.

The Davis College is WVU's oldest academic unit, formed in 1867.

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CULTURE

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Red Eye Comedy and Beer Festival sparks laughter downtown

BY CONNOR GIBBONS
CORRESPONDENT

With five shows on four stages over three nights, the first ever Red Eye Comedy and Beer Festival brought talent from all over the country to perform in Morgantown over the weekend.

Each event during the festival featured a different line up of comedians and over 25 individual performances took place throughout the festival.

The festival of laughter was co-organized by Cody Cannon, a seasoned local comic, who wanted to bring a festival like this together to celebrate the art and inspire growth of the comedy scene in Morgantown.

Comedians that performed at the various shows traveled from New York, D.C. and Los Angeles. A handful of locals also performed.

PHOTO BY CONNOR GIBBONS

Cody Cannon, a local comic, performs at the Red Eye Comedy and Beer Festival at 123 Pleasant Street on April 1, 2022.

The festival was brought to downtown venues including The Piss Box, Morgantown Art Party, 123 Pleasant Street and Morgantown Brewing Company.

The event at 123 Pleasant Street was intentionally placed to fall on the night of April Fool's Day. The headliner at this show was Dave Ross, an LA based comedian who's appeared on "The Late Late Show with James Corden," and Comedy Central.

The 123 show was hosted by "The Hard Times," a satirical music news outlet based out of San Francisco.

The portion of the festival that took place April 2, at the Morgantown Brewing Company sold-out and featured regional guest beers on tap and comedy all day. The headliner of this show, Aminah Imani, has been featured on Comedy Central and other television shows.

PHOTO BY CONNOR GIBBONS

Dave Ross, an LA based comic, performs at 123 Pleasant Street at the Red Eye Comedy and Beer Festival on April 1, 2022.

The Red Eye Comedy festival was organized by Cannon and his friend Noah Basden. The two of them had the festival originally planned for spring of 2020, but the pandemic halted the festival.

Cannon is the primary booker of comedy for 123 Pleasant Street and Morgantown Brewing Company, and his show booking has recently branched out to venues in Charleston and Fayetteville, West Virginia.

"My goal for West Virginia is to bring comedians. We're six hours from New York, three from Columbus, three from D.C. and an hour south of Pittsburgh. I just want to make Morgantown a stop that comedians want to make," Cannon said.

Cannon would also like to see more university students involved in the local comedy scene. For those looking to get onstage, open mic nights hosted by Cannon happen twice monthly.

Open mic nights at 123 Pleasant Street are the first Wednesdays of every month and Morgantown Brewing Company hosts one monthly.

WVU sophomore expresses her passion for physical fitness through pageantry

BY AUBREY BURKHARDT
STAFF WRITER

Alexis Kiesling, a sophomore exercise physiology student at WVU, recently won her first pageant within the Miss America Organization using her passion for physical therapy and fitness.

Kiesling was crowned as Miss Elkins Area on March 5 and she will be competing for the title of Miss West Virginia on June 24.

Growing up in Pennsylvania, Kiesling competed as a baton twirler.

"I was part of a team, The Modernettes, for 10 years in my hometown," she said.

During her senior year she began to compete solo. She later became a feature twirler for the Mountaineers.

"That was one of my biggest passions throughout my whole life and that's really what brought me here to this campus," Kiesling said.

PHOTO COURTESY TACY BROOKE PUTZULU S PHOTOGRAPHY

Alexis Kiesling was crowned Miss Elkins Area on March 5, 2022.

SThis passion led her to take a new interest in pageantry.

"I started getting into the pageantry style because one of the WVU alumni featured twirlers actually had won Miss West Virginia a few years ago and I had really looked up to her," she said.

Kiesling said her background in performance competitions helped her performance in specific categories of the pageant.

"The first one is 'Interview' and that's worth 35% of our score. I've had a lot of jobs in the past and other people that have helped me and inspired my speaking skills," Kiesling said. "Then the second part is talent, which is 35%, and of course I use baton twirling as mine."

Twirling gives Kiesling many opportunities, including the chance to share her passion with others who might not see it very often.

"That's something that I've worked on for years and years and years. I was just excited to share with a new population of people what baton twirling can be," she said.

Despite her love of twirling, Kiesling found the interview portion of the pageant to be the most exciting.

"My favorite part is actually the interview actually," Kiesling said. "Which is surprising because I love baton twirling and I love the talent portion and performing for people, but getting to know

the judges and getting to talk about the impact that we're able to make, especially with these titles, is really inspiring."

Every candidate for Miss West Virginia must be involved with a community or social issue, a "social impact initiative."

Kiesling's social impact initiative, "Strong is Beautiful" gives her the opportunity to put her love for physical fitness and her dedication to hard work together in hopes of reaching an audience through the message of body positivity.

"I created that because, whenever I was younger and participating in gymnastics, I was always conscious about the way that I looked," Kiesling said. "I would go home from practice, even though that was what was helping me be physical/fit for my sport, I wasn't feeling confident for what today society really expects you to be."

Kiesling was inspired a few years back by the Olympic debut of Simone Biles and what she stood for in regards to body image among athletes.

"I saw Simone Biles at the Olympics and she really stuck up for body image issues that really inspired me a few years ago to start really thinking about the way that I looked at my body image, and the way that girls should look at their body image," Kiesling said.

The impact initiative is part of Kiesling's work towards inspiring others to have a positive attitude for fitness.

"I want people to feel confident in the way they look but also be excited to participate in physical activity," she said. "Because you should be participating in physical activity for yourself and not for the way you look towards others or what others think about you."

Three things to do this weekend in Morgantown

BY LARA BONATESTA
CULTURE EDITOR

Looking to get out of your apartment or dorm this weekend but not sure what to do? Whether you're hoping to do something on campus, downtown or anywhere else in town, there are plenty of opportunities to mix it up and try something new.

Check out our recommendations for three things to do this weekend in Morgantown and choose your favorite.

1 TEDxWVU

This Saturday April 9, TEDxWVU event "What's Next?" will be taking place in Gladys Davis Theater at the Canady Creative Arts Center at 10 a.m.

The event will feature 4 speakers including Clay Marsh, chancellor and executive dean for WVU's Academic Health Science Center and WVU's Chief Health Officer, Lauren Marquart, a freshman elementary education student, Rebecca Erwin a senior chemical engineering student and Rania Zuri a current junior at Morgantown High School.

Tickets are available for $19 or $9 with a valid WVU student ID and can be purchased at the Mountainlair and Creative Arts Center box offices or on ticketmaster.com.

2 Morgantown Exotic Animal and Reptile Expo

Embrace your wild side and visit the Morgantown Exotic Animal Expo Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will be held at 1188 Pineview Dr in Morgantown.

Entry into the expo will cost $5. Children 6 and under can enter for free.

3 April Arts Walk

Head downtown this Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the April Arts Walk. This event will feature over 70 artists. There will be artists featured on High Street, Walnut Street, Pleasant Street, Willey Street and Chestnut Street.

Editor:
Luke Morgan
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OPINION

Barbour County's exclusion of trans pageant contestants is unacceptable

SUBMITTED BY SETH CARDWELL

Editor's note: The letter below is a submitted letter and does not reflect the editorial stance of the Daily Athenaeum. Interested in submitting a letter? Fill out our form.

PHOTO COURTESY SETH CARDWELL

PHOTO COURTESY STORYBLOCKS

The transgender pride flag.

As a lifelong resident of West Virginia, raised in the heart of the southern coalfields, my identity as a queer Appalachian has long been juxtaposed with frequent media stereotypes that paint us as backward, isolated, and disconnected from mainstream society. For most of my life, I thought this to be against the set of beliefs upon which I was raised.

Recently, however, I learned of alarmingly exclusionary tactics that some are implementing to sow division and hate within our state. In the previous week, Barbour County, WV, published its application for the annual pageant to be held at the County Fair.

Though occurring annually, one change in this year's application made my heart sink. Listed in bold at the center of applicant requirements is a powerful statement that divides rather than embraces: "All applicants must be a naturally born female."

Why did the board members feel it necessary to include such rhetoric? Undeniably, this move takes part in alarming national trend against transgender individuals and is an unabashedly shameful attempt at excluding members of our community. In a state filled with like-minded individuals, those who love and support our neighbors and community, I was shocked to see such discriminatory messages being displayed for the public eye.

Why is it that these people repeatedly choose to ostracize members of our society that have been most marginalized in our past when it is arguably easier to be welcoming and embracing toward all? Diversity is what makes our society, and our state so great.

As recently as last year, a study published by the Williams Institute noted discrepancies in access to employment, healthcare, and equal opportunity for members of the LGBTQIA+ community in West Virginia, an unfortunate trend that has been reinforced by the actions of the pageant chairmen in Barbour County. Moves such as these stand to represent the worst of humanity; they highlight the most disdainful aspects of human nature and seek to divide rather than unite.

In a world where division and rampant fears of "outsiders" often leave the most vulnerable members of our society subjected to bigoted rhetoric, the Barbour County Fair chooses to uphold these stereotypical 'norms' in excluding members of the trans and queer community. This decision is abhorrent, serves no place in the Mountain State, and continues to highlight the struggles that the LGBTQIA+ community and allies face in making this an embracing environment for all walks of life. This decision is representative of the close-minded, hateful, and malicious rhetoric that is often associated with our state, and it shows that the fight for equality in West Virginia is far from over.

As of today, this application and its requirements are open and published on the fair website. I urge members of the WVU community, Monongalia County and surrounding areas to email/call the chairmen of the committee to inform them that exclusionary tactics have no home in our West Virginia and that trans women are women.

Seth Cardwell is a first-year graduate student at WVU, majoring in Public Administration. He is originally from McDowell County in southern WV and is pursuing interests in foreign affairs and community governance. He writes poetry and opinion pieces in his free time.

Get big money out of WVU SGA elections

SUBMITTED BY DOMINIC DICHIACCHIO

Editor's note: The letter below is a submitted letter and does not reflect the editorial stance of the Daily Athenaeum. Interested in submitting a letter? Fill out our form.

PHOTO COURTESY DOMINIC DICHIACCHIO

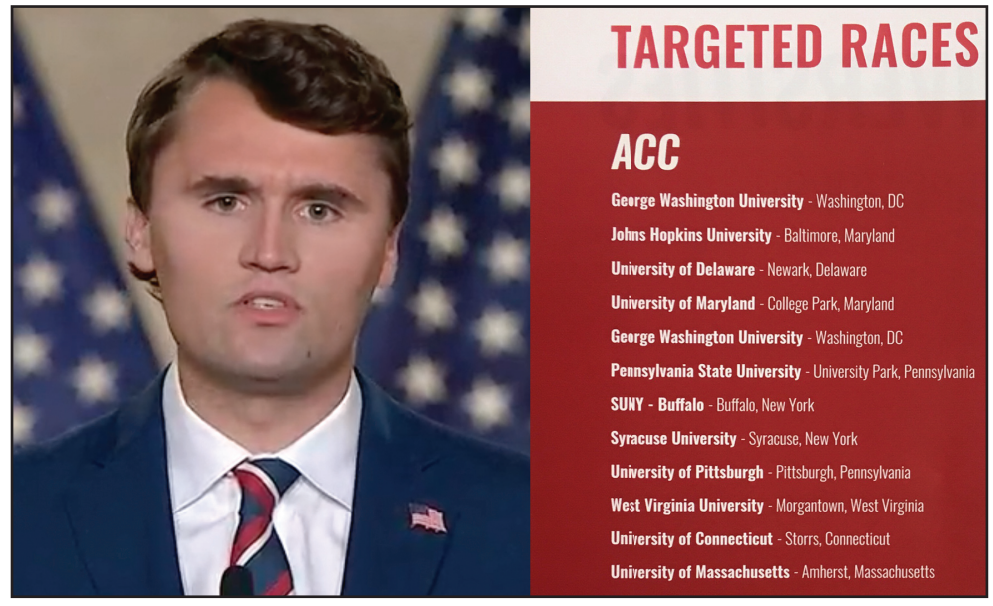

PHOTO COURTESY CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION; CSPAN

Left, Charlie Kirk, founder of Turning Point USA. Right, West Virginia University is one of over a hundred schools listed as targets of the Campus Leadership Project in a 2018 brochure.

The corrupting influence of money in politics now extends beyond national and statewide elections to college campuses across the country, including Morgantown's own West Virginia University. A national conservative group, Turning Point USA (TPUSA), attempted to spend thousands of dollars on WVU's non-partisan student government elections.

Why is a large national organization funneling money into something as small as student government elections?

It is a continuing testament to how money has diluted our democracy from one person with one vote to one dollar with one vote. Those who have the desire to preserve our democracy that is increasingly under attack must stand together beyond partisan views to oppose the encroachment of money in politics.

TPUSA attempted to influence our campus democracy and perpetuates the unnecessarily large influence that money has in our politics. Young people wanting to get experience in politics will be discouraged from continuing their pursuit of being a public servant if they are being stifled by big money in a relatively low profile race.

The Strive Ticket, which TPUSA attempted to support, won both the President/Vice President ticket and the majority of the at-large Senatorial races. This deeply concerns me as somebody that has seen the negative effects of money in politics in my home state, as the pharmaceutical industry and its lobbyists have loaded up the campaign coffers of West Virginian politicians on both sides, leading to addictive and deadly opioids prescriptions that have damaged countless individuals, communities, and families in West Virginia, making the state the epicenter of America's opioid epidemic.

I've worked as a political organizer for the past year, knocking on thousands of doors across the state, going on two hunger strikes, and organizing with Un-PAC WVU, a non-partisan organization with the goal of saving our broken democracy, to encourage Senators Capito and Manchin to pass the Freedom to Vote: John R Lewis Act. This is a bill that would expose dark money in politics by disclosing the donors of super PACs, ban partisan gerrymandering. The law would make it easier for our generation to have their voices heard by establishing Election Day as a national holiday, opening polling places on college campuses and establishing same day voter registration.

I've lived in West Virginia for over a decade. This state is my home, and I don't want to become another statistic as thousands of young people leave West Virginia because of the lack of opportunities and crumbling communities. The solutions to address the many problems in West Virginia start with removing money's influence in politics. We can begin this transformation by working to limit money's influence in local politics, starting with the SGA.

Dominic is a 25-year-old graduate student at West Virginia University in his first year of a M.A program in Political Science. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from WVU in 2019 and has lived in Morgantown since 2009.

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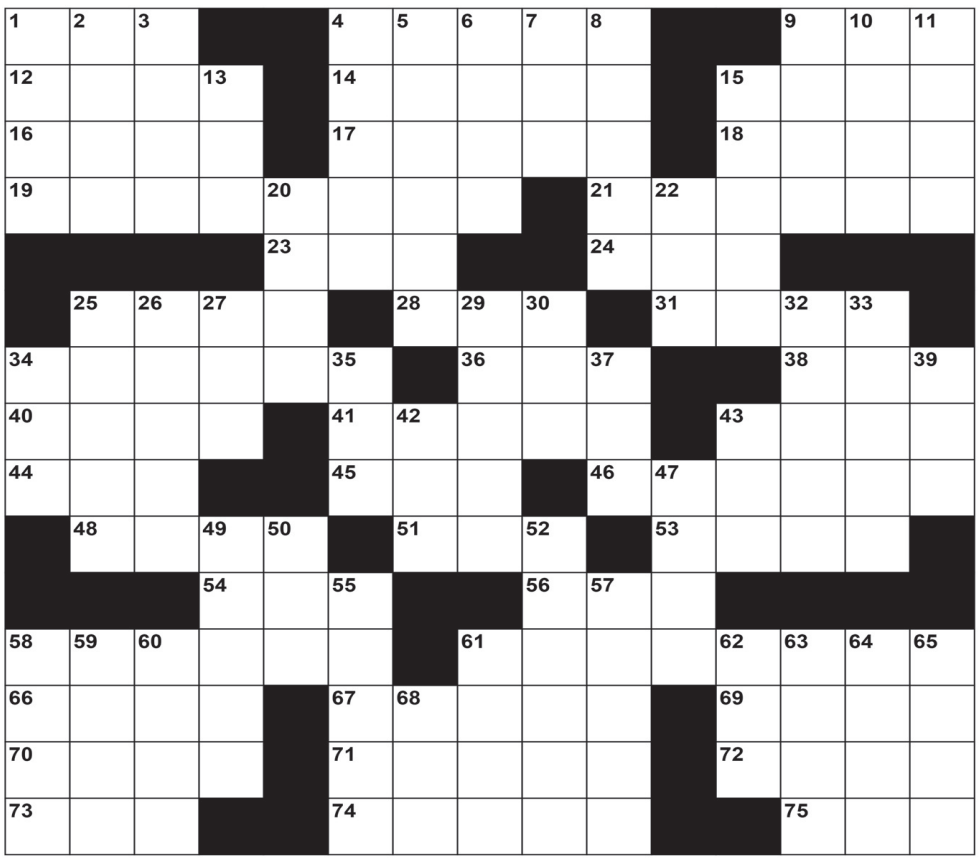

Across

1 She
4 Social class
9 Central nervous system
12 Level
14 Atop (2 wds.)
15 Bird
16 Mrry-Go-Round or Roller Coaster
17 Raccoon-like animal
18 __ Minor (Little Dipper)
19 Ballad (2 wds.)
21 Slang word for carnival worker
23 Rest
24 Winter sport
25 Measuring instrument
28 Bad (prefix)
31 Sap
34 Public procession of people, bands and floats
36 Delaware
38 Luau dish
40 Famous cookies
41 In progress
43 Clique
44 Yea
45 Press
46 Disk thrown in a field event
48 Exchange for money
51 Head motion
53 Loch __ monster
54 Liberal (abbr.)
56 Disconnected
58 Part of "Colorado"
61 Merry-Go-Round
66 Wander
67 Defense
69 GS
70 Jewish scribe
71 Name
72 Parlay
73 Tiny
74 Fastness
75 Common fish

Down

1 Not his
2 Diabolic
3 Do it again
4 Hot chocolate
5 Assumed name
6 Goes __ (without a date)
7 Child
8 Sagas
9 Cob vegetable
10 Snout
11 Bide
13 Recent
15 Oddity
20 Sliding toy
22 Official canine registry (abbr.)
25 Done for fun or amusement
26 Woken
27 Fuel
29 Philippine dish with marinated chicken or pork
30 Sign of the zodiac
32 Spectacles
33 __ pocus
34 Defray
35 Hearing part
37 Type of partnership
39 Possessive pronoun
42 Something that amuses or entertains
43 South southeast
47 Information (abbr.)
49 South American animal
50 Top
52 Workable
55 Water vessels
57 Cooked in oil, butter or some other fat
58 Sketched
59 Seep
60 Not well cooked
61 Refer to
62 North American nation
63 In __ (together)
64 Singing voice
65 Told an untruth
68 Mouth part

For answers, visit thedaonline.com

PET OF THE DAY

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY ERIKA OSBORNE

Boulder just turned 12 this past March. He loves to lay out in the sun and nap all day. He also doesn't like to miss out on a snack, his nose can smell food a mile away. His favorite game to play is stealing shoes and hiding them under the dining room table. Boulder can sit, shake paws and roll over. Mashed potatoes and Milk-bones is his favorite treats.

Submit your favorite pet photo at danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu

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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9.

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	2		8			5		
5					1	2	7	
	8	4	5		7			
				1		9		2
		2				3		
3		6		9				
			7		3	1	2	
	3	5	1					9
		1			9		5	

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SPORTS

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The art of 'Mazey ball': WVU baseball's national dominance at stealing bags

BY ZACH ANDERSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The West Virginia baseball team has shined across its last eight matchups, going 6-2 over that span mostly in part to its dominance in base running and always going for an extra bag down the stretch.

Head coach Randy Mazey has always stood by his aggressive style of play, coined "Mazey Ball." Having his base runners shoot for extra bases, even if it's the bottom of the ninth inning or at the start of a game. This pattern has shown a lot of promise for the Mountaineers (16-10, 2-1 Big 12) early in the 2022 season.

West Virginia is among the best in the country at stealing bases, coming in second in the nation in total stolen bases by a single team at 98 bases. Texas Southern is the only school ahead of the Mountaineers, recording 128 stolen bases.

WVU also comes in second for stolen bases per game, averaging 3.77 stolen bags across 26 games so far.

Individual base runners for the Mountaineers are also at the top of the stat sheet, with centerfielder Victor Scott II coming in tied for second with 24 stolen bases of his own.

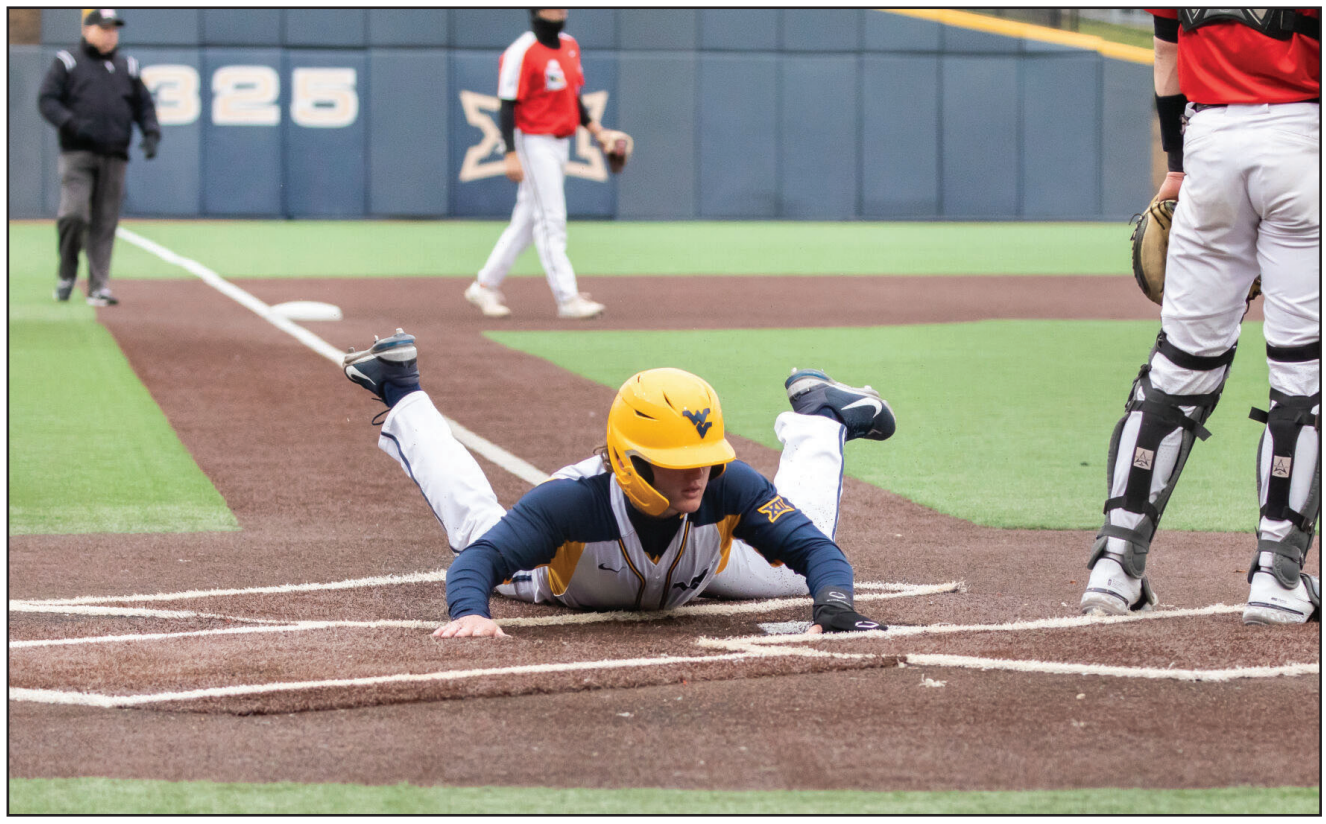

PHOTO BY JAKE TAYLOR

A West Virginia baseball player slides into home plate against Youngstown State on March, 25, 2022 at Monongalia County Ballpark in Morgantown, W. Va.

Much further down but still near the top is outfielder Austin Davis, who's tied for eighth in the nation with 17 stolen bags.

In recent matchups, this baserunning prowess has been the deciding factor on many close victories or impressive blowouts.

In a three-game home series against Youngstown State on March 24 and 25, West Virginia combined for 13 stolen bases, 11 of those coming in a 13-2 victory on March 25. The Mountaineers kept the Penguins' bullpen guessing frequently, leading to a single game school record in stolen bags.

In a road matchup against in-state rival Marshall on March 29, WVU was also able to steal five bases on the day to take an impressive 7-3 victory over the Thundering Herd. This was the seventh game this season where the Mountaineers stole at least five bases.

Most recently, the Mountaineers competed in a three game series against TCU from April 1 to April 3. In the first contest of the series, West Virginia took home a victory in the final inning, with pitcher Ben Abernathy stealing home with two outs on the board to give WVU the come from behind victory, 3-2.

Even with two outs on the board and the game on the line, the Mountaineers were able to do what they do best to pull out a comeback victory, and that's the game plan that Mazey uses every game.

West Virginia ended up winning the series against the Horned Frogs 2-1, going 1-1 in the final two games with a combined 10 stolen bases across the entire series.

Throughout this season aggressive base running and going for extra bases in the biggest moments has been what's worked best for Mazey and West Virginia, making them one of the most aggressive squads in the country.

WVU will look to add to its stolen base total when it hosts Marshall at Monongalia County Ballpark in Morgantown, W. Va. First pitch is set for 6:30 p.m. with streaming available on ESPN+.

WVU baseball bounces back against TCU, takes weekend series with 5-2 win

BY JAKE HOWARD
SPORTS WRITER

The WVU baseball team defeated the TCU Horned Frogs 5-2 on Sunday, winning the weekend series against their Big 12 opponents in Fort Worth, TX.

The Mountaineers got off to a good start, scoring two runs in the first inning.

Senior center fielder Victor Scott II started the scoring when he singled in the top of the first inning, scoring senior right fielder Austin Davis. Sophomore designated hitter McGwire Holbrook followed that up with a single to bring Scott in to score.

Sophomore second baseman Mikey Kluska singled to score Braden Berry to put the Mountaineers up by three. Redshirt junior Tevin Tucker then doubled to score Kluska and Dayne Leonard.

However, the Horned Frogs then scored in the bottom of the inning to make the score 5-1.

TCU added another score in the sixth inning but that was all they would get, as the Mountaineers came out victorious in both the game and in the series.

While no player in blue and gold had multiple hits, the WVU lineup made the few they had count as they scored five runs en route to the win. Every member of the starting lineup had at least one hit.

The shortstop Tucker had the most runs batted in for the Mountaineers, driving in two runs with his fourth-inning double. Sophomore left fielder Braden Barry also had a double and scored a run.

On the mound, the Mountaineers got stellar pitching out of fifth-year right-handers Zach Bravo, Chase Smith and Trey Braithwaite.

Bravo was the starter for West Virginia. He tossed five innings, giving up only one earned run and four hits while walking three batters and striking out two.

Smith came in to relieve Bravo in the fifth inning, and he allowed no earned runs while recording one out.

Braithwaite pitched the final three and two-thirds innings, allowing no earned runs, no hits, no walks, and striking out three hitters.

With the win, the Mountaineers now sit at 16-10 overall and 2-1 in Big 12 competition.

Their next game will be on Wednesday, April 6 in Morgantown, W. Va. at 6:30 p.m. against the Marshall Thundering Herd. The game will be streamed on ESPN+.

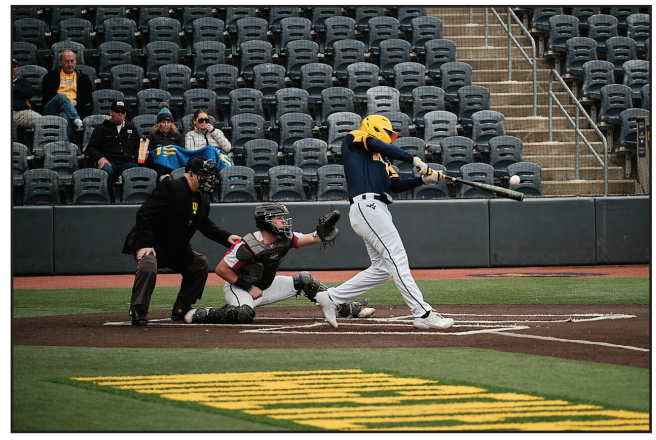

PHOTO BY JAKE TAYLOR

A West Virginia batter hits a ball against Youngstown State on March, 25, 2022 at the Monongalia County Ballpark in Morgantown, W. Va.

A New Dawn: WVU welcomes Dawn Plitzuweit as their sixth women's basketball coach

BY WESLEY SHOEMAKER
SPORTS WRITER

After 21 seasons under Mike Carey, West Virginia has officially ushered in a new era to its women's basketball program.

When Carey retired on March 16, West Virginia began a national search to find their next head women's basketball coach. That search came to an end on Tuesday, as longtime South Dakota head coach Dawn Plitzuweit was announced as the sixth women's basketball coach in program history, inside the WVU Coliseum.

"This day is a very exciting day for us and for our family," Plitzuweit said. "There is a great deal of energy in this coliseum."

Plitzuweit comes to West Virginia after having been a head coach for 15 seasons. In those seasons, she has a career record of 346-129, and has made the postseason 14.

Plitzuweit values her players and says she is going to give her players everything she has.

"To the most important people in this room — our players. To you ladies, we commit to give you everything that we have. Our goal is to do everything to assist you in your development on and off the court. On the court we will strive to grow you into the most versatile, complete version of who you can be as a basketball player."

Plitzuweit added, "off the court we have a goal for you that when you graduate from West Virginia University, you will be as confident young women as you can become and you're ready to take on any challenges that life is ready to throw your way."

> *"To have an opportunity to be here and to be the next head women's basketball coach is something that is a dream. It's something that is really exciting for us."*
>
> -Dawn Plitzuweit, new WVU women's basketball head coach

This past season, Plitzuweit led South Dakota to a Sweet Sixteen appearance and was named the Kay Yow Coach of the Year — a Division I Women's Basketball coach who embodies a winning spirit and displays great character both on and off the court.

Plitzuweit said she has a number of expectations that she considers non-negotiables. These include being your best, being thankful, and enjoying the present moment.

"Expectation number one is to be your best. Be your best academically, be your best on the basketball court, and the third way to be your best is in the community. To whom much is given, much is expected and we want to give back. And the fourth way to be your best is as a teammate," Plitzuweit said.

"Expectation number two is to be thankful. We certainly know that at West Virginia University we have incredible opportunities here and we want to make sure we are approaching that with a thankful and grateful heart. We want to be humble; we also want to be hungry at the same time," Plitzuweit said.

Lastly, Plitzuweit said she wants her players to always enjoy and cherish the present. Plitzuweit is a three-time Summit League Coach of the Year, and led South Dakota to the NCAA Tournament four times during her tenure.

"Expectation number three is to enjoy the precious present. I think college-aged kids are under more stress and more pressure than ever before in our history," Plitzuweit said. "Basketball is not a utopia either. It's not perfect every single day. Not everything goes well."

Plitzuweit, who many call 'Coach-P,' comes to West Virginia recognizing it as a place that many across women's basketball know and respect, and she hopes to keep the brand of Mountaineer women's basketball alive.

"I've had a chance to coach for quite a few years and certainly during that time you understand the landscape of women's basketball and West Virginia women's basketball is a national brand and it is a brand of basketball that has a great legacy and history behind it," Plitzuweit said. "So, to have an opportunity to be here and to be the next head women's basketball coach is something that is a dream. It's something that is really exciting for us."

BY JAKE TAYLOR

Women's basketball head coach Dawn Plitzuweit and athletic director Shane Lyons pose at the introductory press conference on April, 5, 2022 at the WVU Coliseum in Morgantown, W. Va.

WVU golf takes 10th place, with 11-over par in Mason Rudolph Championship

BY MATT ROSS
SPORTS WRTIER

PHOTO COURTESY WVU SPORTS

A WVU golf ball about to go in the hole.

WVU golf wrapped up their regular season this weekend at the Mason Rudolph Championship in Nashville, Tenn. The Mountaineers finished tied for 10th place, shooting rounds of 292, 284, and 287 to end the tournament 11-over-par.

Logan Perkins led the way for the Mountaineers tying for 16th place. Perkins shot 71 in the first round of play, 69 in the next, and 70 to cap off the tournament shooting 3-under-par.

Kurtis Grant finished tied for 28th shooting 1-under-par. Grant shots rounds of 73, 70, and 70 to jump up 12 spots on the final day.

Jackson Davenport ended his tournament tied for 62nd and shooting 9-over-par with rounds of 72, 71, and 79. Trent Tipton shot 10-over-par tieing for 65th place with rounds of 76, 74, and 73. Mark Goetz shot 12-over-par with rounds of 76, 75, and 74 to end the tournament tied for 74th.

Max Green participated as an individual for the Mountaineers placing, 82nd and shooting 14-over-par with rounds of 74, 80, and 73.

"Logan and Kurtis stepped up for us big time today," coach Sean Covich said. "I'm really happy for those guys. This week, we battled back after a bad opening round, so I was glad to see the guys hang in there and battle until the end. We have a few weeks off to practice at Pete Dye and then a big one, the Big 12 Championship."

The Mountaineers will return to action for the Big 12 Championship in Trinity, Texas from April 25-27.

WVU track and field hosts Mountaineer Classic in first home meet of season

BY SAM GAMBILL
SPORTS WRITER

The West Virginia track and field team hosted the Mountaineer Classic at the Mylan Park Track & Field Complex on April 1-2.

The Mountaineers, who didn't compete in any events on Friday, began Saturday with the 100 meter hurdles relay. During the event, freshman Ghamani Hogue earned fourth place with a time of 16.38. Hogue also finished in 10th place in the 200 meter dash, with a time of 27.90.

Then, in the 400 meter dash, senior Tessa Constantine finished in second place, falling just .22 seconds short of first place with a final time of 57.79.

WVU was also able to dominate the 800 meter run, where four Mountaineers finished in the top six. Senior Hayley Jackson earned first place while sophomore Megan Weaver took third place, junior Amber Dombrowski captured fourth place, and sophomore Emily Oiler finished in sixth place.

West Virginia continued their success on Saturday during the 1500 meter run, with junior Malina Mitchell finishing in fourth place, earning a time of 4:56.31. In the same event, junior Ellie Nesbit took 10th place with a solid time of 5:24.36.

Meanwhile, during the field events, the Mountaineers controlled the pole vault and high jump with first place finishes in both events.

Sophomore Sarah Stair took first in the pole vault after reaching a height of 3.66 meters, while junior Katelyn Caccamo and sophomore Lynsie Curtis tied for second place in the same event.

Moments later, sophomore Abigale Mullings took home first place in the high jump with a height of 1.68 meters.

WVU capped a busy weekend with the 4x400 relay where senior Tessa Constantine and sophomores Cassandra Williamson, Jo-Lauren Keane, and Emily Oiler finished in first place with a time of 3:50.28.

PHOTO BY JAKE TAYLOR

West Virginia's Ghamani Houge runs hurdles in the Mountaineer Classic on April, 1, 2022 at Mylan Park in Morgantown, W. Va.

Next up for the Mountaineers track squad is the Mason Spring Invitational. The event will be held in Fairfax, Va. on April 9.

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Hosted by Sydney Wentz and Chloe Snodgrass, the "Are You Still Watching?" podcast discusses TV shows, past and present, the impact they've had in pop culture and the mark they've left on our society. New episodes are available every Friday! This podcast is a product of the Daily Athenaeum, West Virginia University's Independent Student Newspaper, and produced by WVU Student Media.

In this podcast series, we'll share the achievements and insights of West Virginia University graduate students and faculty. We'll discuss their experiences and how they came to be passionate about their research. We'll also talk about life beyond the lab and academy. GradLife 601: Research and Beyond is sponsored by the WVU Provost's Office of Graduate Education and Life and hosted by Dr. Nancy Caronia, a Teaching Associate Professor in the Department of English at West Virginia University.

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