



SGA candidates speak on goals, initiatives ahead of 2023 election



Student gala celebrates African cultures



Women's hoops prepares for Big 12 Championship play on Friday

p. 3

p. 5

p. 8



@DailyAthenaeum



The Daily Athenaeum



dailyathenaeum



danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu

WVU's Independent Student Newspaper

WEDNESDAY MARCH 8, 2023

www.thedaonline.com

# Cheating violations drop at WVU

*Fall 2022 academic misconduct charges below pre-pandemic levels*

BY SAVANNAH JONES  
CORRESPONDENT

Far fewer students at West Virginia University are cheating this school year than before the pandemic.

According to data provided by WVU's Office of Academic Integrity, all academic misconduct violations decreased by 50% from fall 2019 to fall 2022. During this period, cheating charges dropped by 26% and plagiarism charges reduced by more than half.

Other academic misconduct violations like fabrication or falsification, facilitation and other prohibited conduct charges also witnessed a significant drop last semester, decreasing by 87% from fall 2019.

However, student cheating at WVU was at an all-time high during the pandemic.

In fall 2020, cheating charges against students more than doubled from the previous fall semester, and total academic violations increased by roughly 44%.

Evan Widders, Associate Provost of Undergraduate Education, said

that the return to primarily in-person learning and the utilization of university testing centers can be attributed to the vast decline.

The University Testing Center was opened in the basement of Hodges Hall in fall 2021. Although professors were wary of using it at first, Widders said 70,000 tests were given at the Center in 2021, and 90,000 tests are expected this year.

The testing center's innovative testing methods such as camera proctoring and the usage of multiple test banks has aided in eliminating specifically cheating on exams, according to Widders.

"[The testing center has] just sort of taken away all the temptation. Students keep their phones because they need to be able to log in to their WVU accounts and get on eCampus, but then they're told to put it away and everything's on video," Widders said.

He added the testing center is more convenient for students because they can schedule to take their exams any time within a 48-hour period.

Paul Heddings, director of Aca-

demic Integrity, attributes this decline in cheating charges not only to the University Testing Center, but also to the Office of Accessibility Services Testing Center located in the Downtown Campus Library.

"I think those are both fantastic resources for our faculty," Heddings said. "The folks that work in those centers do a great job, and I think they have contributed to the lower numbers."

Heddings said that most of the cheating violations are due to students falling behind in classes, and then needing to take shortcuts to catch back up. His strategy to aid this problem is sending students to success coaching, time management training and tutoring — rather than strictly punishing students.

"By focusing on the underlying cause rather than only the bad behavior, we better prepare students for future success," Heddings said in an email.

Heddings' take on academic integrity is to "educate first and punish second," and according to Widders, this method seems to be effective as



PHOTO BY TRENTON STRAIGHT

The University Testing Center is located on the ground level of Hodges Hall in downtown Morgantown.

plagiarism complaints are declining as well.

"Many plagiarism cases arise because the student didn't understand how to write or cite correctly," Heddings said in an email. "Instead of simply punishing bad behavior, we focus on educating the student on how to be a better writer and avoid making these mistakes in the future."

Heddings also attributes this de-

cline to the hard work of the faculty at the Eberly SpeakWrite Writing Studio, WVU Libraries and the Office of Student Success, and encourages students to take advantage of these resources.

"We must address the dishonest behavior that led to the charge, but we also have an opportunity to help students learn and grow," Heddings said in an email.

# TikToker teaches students to crochet with one hand

BY ASHLEY CUMPSTON  
STAFF WRITER

Runway of Dreams hosted a crocheting event Monday for interested students of all experience levels.

The event featured Helen Zhou, a TikTok creator who can only use her left hand. Zhou uses her channel to teach one-handed crocheting and

knitting techniques.

"You can crochet with one hand and a lot of people, me included, didn't think that was possible until I found this tool on Youtube," Zhou said.

She has been making content on TikTok since December 2022 and has gained more than 14,000 followers.

Zhou first made her crochet aid

using an instructional video on YouTube. Now, she has her own channel where she teaches others how to crochet with an adaptive crochet technique using one hand.

There are a variety of tutorials on YouTube available to people who are interested in making their own crochet aid.

Monday marked Zhou's first live demonstration for a group of people.

She was also the first-guest speaker for WVU's Runway of Dreams, the newest chapter of the national organization dedicated to empowering people with disabilities through fashion.

Hannah Shuff, social media coordinator for WVU Runway of Dreams, led the beginner-level project to crochet a coaster, while Zhou led the intermediate-level project to crochet

an acorn basket.

"It is hard at first but if you keep on practicing and watching good tutorials and good Youtube videos and also if you have someone in your life that can help you and teach you how to crochet, that's a plus," Zhou said in an interview. "Don't give up

See **Crochet** page 4

**AEROSTAR APARTMENTS**

**Rates as low as \$330 per person!**

**NOW LEASING FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR!**

**304-598-3300**

Downtown Campus  
Evansdale Campus  
1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 bedrooms

**Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm**  
Appointments available by request



## WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

### THURSDAY 03/09

MOSTLY CLOUDY  
HIGH 40° - LOW 32°



### FRIDAY 03/10

SNOW  
HIGH 36° - LOW 30°



### SATURDAY 03/11

CLOUDY  
HIGH 35° - LOW 31°



## CRIME REPORT

POLICE LINE • DO NOT CROSS • POLICE LINE • DO NOT CROSS • POLICE LINE • DO NOT CROSS • POLICE LINE

**March 1**  
**12:40 P.M. | Resolved**  
WVU Art Museum  
Structure Fire.

**March 1**  
**1:07 P.M. | Resolved**  
Law School  
Indecent Exposure.

**March 1**  
**7:50 P.M. | Resolved**  
Delta Gamma Sorority  
Public Intox.

**March 1**  
**9:04 P.M. | Resolved**  
Oakland Hall  
Drug Incident.

**March 1**  
**9:25 P.M. | Investigating**

North Spruce St.  
Battery.

**March 1**  
**9:50 P.M. | Resolved**  
University Park Apts.  
Drug Incident.

**March 2**  
**12:49 A.M. | Resolved**  
Summit Hall  
ABCC Violation.

**March 2**  
**3:14 A.M. | Arrest**  
Dadisman  
ABCC Violation.

**March 2**  
**2:04 P.M. | Resolved**  
Lincoln Hall  
Disturbance.

The DA is student-run and editorially independent from West Virginia University. All content decisions in the DA are made by students without prior review by the University.



dailyathenaeum

## SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENTS



**EerRational**  
@EerRational

WVU surviving the Big 12 and making the NCAA Tournament.



I lived bitch



**Jeff Ruff**  
@jeff\_ruff

The new "Geno Smith QB room" at the football facilities will be state of the art.

**THE DA Staff**  
**WVU's INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER**

### NEWS

**Trenton Straight**  
Editor-in-Chief

**Raeanne Beckner**  
Managing Editor

**Caroline Murphy**  
Multimedia Director

**Jules Ogden**  
News Editor

**Christina Rufo**  
Breaking News Editor

**Katelyn Aluise**  
Investigations Editor

**Emma Scott**  
Co-Sports Editor

**Luke Blain**  
Co-Sports Editor

**Lara Bonatesta**  
Culture Editor

**Sabrina Siegan**  
Assistant Culture Editor

**Luke Morgan**  
Opinion Editor

**Ladimir Garcia**  
Social Media Manager

**Sydney Wentz**  
Podcast Editor

**Avery Yearout**  
Photo Editor

**Meredith Northup**  
Designer

### PROSPECT & PRICE CREATIVE

**Raymond Lapoint**  
Media Consultant

**Matt Witkowski**  
Media Consultant

**Caitlyn Morrissey**  
Media Consultant

**McKenzie Mayle**  
Media Consultant

**Abigail George**  
Media Consultant

**Abigail Trimmer**  
Media Consultant

**Brenda Gulliksen**  
Media Consultant

**Andrew Minardi**  
Media Consultant

**Rylie Walker**  
Media Consultant

**Emily Cecil**  
Media Consultant

**Justice Pautz**  
Media Consultant

**Devyn Hussey**  
Media Consultant

**Anna Cummings**  
Project Manager

**Jordan Howes**  
Newsletter Manager

**Ainslee Batt**  
Graphics Specialist



(304) 599-7474

**NOW LEASING**  
**RATES AS LOW AS \$370**  
**PER PERSON**

Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Appointments available by request

Conveniently located near the WVU Football stadium. Health Science Center, Ruby Memorial Hospital, Evansdale & Downtown Campus.

Chateauroyaleapartments.com

### 1, 2, & 3 Bedrooms

- Pet Friendly
- Wifi Cafe
- Fitness Center
- Guest Parking Lot
- Activity Center
- Basketball Court
- Heated Swimming Pool
- Bus Route Access
- Volleyball Court



**THE DAILY ATHENAEUM**  
284 Prospect Street  
Morgantown, WV 26506  
304-293-4141

Advertising Opportunities  
Contact our advertising team  
at 304-293-4141  
da-ads@mail.wvu.edu

Breaking News  
danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu

Corrections  
danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu  
The Daily Athenaeum strives for accuracy and fairness in the reporting of news. If a report is wrong or misleading a request for a correction or a clarification may be made.

**Did you know the DA is editorially Independent from the University?**





# SGA candidates speak on goals, initiatives ahead of 2023 election

BY DA STAFF

This evening will mark the conclusion of the 2023 Student Government Association election, with two candidates eyeing a term as president.

Last week, The Daily Athenaeum sat down with SGA presidential candidates Olivia Dowler and Madison Santmyer to discuss their administration's goals and initiatives if elected.

Dowler, a junior from Weirton, West Virginia, is running alongside vice-presidential candidate Maria Amores, a sophomore from Martinsburg, as part of the Home campaign.

Santmyer, a junior from Virginia, is running alongside vice-presidential candidate Brogan Dozier, a sophomore from Charles Town, West Virginia, as part of the Bridge WVU campaign.

Voting began Tuesday and will last through Wednesday at 7 p.m., with absentee ballots due at that same time. Students can vote in person at polling locations in the Mountainlair, Student Recreation Center and the Health Science Pylons.

An SGA candidate debate took place Monday at 5:30 p.m. in the Gluck Theatre of the Mountainlair and was moderated by professor William H. Gorby, director of undergraduate advising in the WVU Department of History.

The results of the election will be announced Wednesday night after voting hours have ended.

*Editor's Note: The following interviews have been lightly edited for clarity and brevity.*

**DA: Why did you decide to run for president and vice president of the student body?**

**DOWLER:** SGA has really been where I found my home on campus, so I thought it was only right that I gave back. I just couldn't let myself really be a bystander in the lives of others, while knowing that I have these resources that I didn't have as much whenever I've been in places that I've been struggling. But to be able to have that and prepare students, and just really amplify their voices, is some-



PHOTOS COURTESY OLIVIA DOWLER AND MADISON SANTMYER

(From left to right) Olivia Dowler, Maria Amores, Brogan Dozier and Madison Santmyer.

thing that I just know I can't miss out on.

**AMORES:** I want people to feel as much of a home here as I do, and I understand that I'm in a position where I can help people who don't feel like WVU is their home. And it would feel morally wrong for me if I were to just leave that behind and just be about myself ... But I think being a part of WVU and being a part of that mountaineer family is understanding that you have these resources in the University, in this community.

**SANTMYER:** I've been serving as a senator-at-large, and I kind of saw the gap between the students involved in SGA and those not. And it's kind of the biggest thing when I take a step back and look at what the student body needs. And I think having a fresh voice and someone who has that insider and outsider perspective is really good for the students ... I'm really connected with the University. I really care about the students and care about the University as a whole.

**DOZIER:** My parents were super involved in advocacy work and kind of advocating for people that didn't always have a voice ... I carried that with me my freshman year when I was lucky enough to intern for SGA, and I think it's really important. I was an intern for Amaya Jernigan, who

was the first Black president of the student body ... It was really important to me when I came here that someone that looked like me was in such a high role as a student.

**DA: What are some major issues facing students at WVU, and how would your administration address and begin to solve them?**

**DOWLER:** I think every year — it's a big thing — is transparency and more of a relationship there with the University and the students. Especially, like SGA, not seeming like this elite, exclusive little group because we are not a separate group. We are just a part of the student body. There is no division between us ... I know something with the University, specifically that we want to work on with, is transparency with student fees ... I'd love to get a dollar-to-dollar breakdown of that to show students — also being transparent about what we're doing, where SGA money is going and having that out publicly ... First and foremost is basic needs because if you don't have food on the table, if you don't feel safe, if you don't feel welcomed as who you are, learning goes out of the window. Having a fun college experience goes out of the window ... I definitely sit at a seat of privilege, being a white student at a primarily white in-

stitution. So, I definitely want to take a step back and listen to students and amplify their voices with those privileges that I am given.

**SANTMYER:** Our big thing that we've been working on this past year is DEI and accessibility. I'm on the inclusion committee there and [Brogan is] the program coordinator. So I've been really working heavily with the OAS (Office Accessibility Services) and the ADA office on braille signage and the ... OAS shuttle buses for benches and coverings ... We're also in talks with the administration to try to get them to require DEI training ... That can mean, within accessibility services, just like accommodations, mental health, DEI — making sure the professors, faculty, staff, anyone that's going to deal with the students in that capacity, understand how that works, and how to kind of deal with students and like ... The professors and faculty and staff that aren't as involved with those kinds of things are the ones who need it the most. Because the people who care about that stuff are the ones already showing up to those training and events. And we want to make sure that all of the people working for the University and working for the students are educated on that.

**DA: How do you plan to have the University and its**

administration take action on your initiatives?

**DOWLER:** I think one big thing that is fantastic is that we both already have a lot of established relationships with the University administration ... I've gone to other universities. I could talk to them about like, "Hey, what do you think is at your university that might not be the same at WVU right now that we could bring back? Or what do you think that students might be not seeing that causes this little disconnect?" Because I think that sometimes the University does do things and has reasons, but they just don't disclose those reasons ... Also, I think knowing that we will be working with the University but that doesn't mean that we'll always agree with them or just go along with the things they do. Because, at the end of the day, we're not here to work for the University or the administration. We're here to work for the students and amplify their voices.

**SANTMYER:** Our experience thus far has been very positive. We're really grateful for that ... Having those meetings or just brainstorming and talking to the Accessibility Advisory Board, or the Mental Health Advisory Board, or just like students on campus. So, hearing what they're saying, and then making sure we're

bringing it back to the advisor or the administrators ... [Administrators] want to help the students ... we have to tell them a lot of the time. They might not see everything, and we're the ones on the ground level of students. So using our privilege as student leaders and representatives and what we hear and what students come and bring to us ... I think is like the first step. And thus far, they've been really receptive. Obviously, money is a big part of it with budget cuts and hiring freezes and all of that. That's always an issue that we have.

**DA: How do you plan to get the student body more involved in SGA?**

**AMORES:** I think something that Olivia and I have really talked about is how important it is to us that we're not just going to sit and wait for students to come to us. We need to go out to students, whether that is attending student organization meetings, that's sending them emails. How do we get that information of what resources SGA can provide student organizations? That's going to be much more efficient than what it is now. I know we currently have things like president's forum set up through SGA. But I think sometimes they're just not marketed that well because SGA is just posting and waiting for people to see, rather than going out there and being on the front lines and trying to get that involvement from students.

**DOZIER:** It goes back to our overarching goal of being approachable. We want to go to the different campuses and table ... We have an open student forum; we have two per every meeting, and students can come, but ... the average student is not going to want to get up on a mic in front of all of these people dressed in suits ... So, we have to meet students where they are. We have to go to the student orgs, we have to go to Up All Night, we have to table at the Mountainlair, we have to go to basketball and football games, we have to go to Health Sciences, Engineering ... Often people forget about those other campuses. We have to be there, we have to be visible and approachable.



# Campus garden battles food insecurity

## *Workshops teach students agricultural basics*

BY LAUREN TAYLOR  
CORRESPONDENT

WVU's Campus Food Garden is holding a series of garden-based workshops to teach agricultural basics and the importance of personal food security to students, staff and residents of Monongalia County.

Biologist Nikki Byrne-Hoffman, co-founder of the Campus Food Garden and an assistant professor in the Division of Plant and Soil Sciences, said basic gardening skills are necessary to increase self-sufficiency.

"A lot of these skills have been lost over time, and as global situations with food kind of worsen, we really want to make sure that people still have access to those skills and learning those skills," she said.

According to Feeding America, more than 200,000 people in West Virginia are facing some level of food insecurity.

Byrne-Hoffman, having grown up food insecure, said the importance of learning these skills is especially important for college students.

"We hear a lot about starving college students, and that's kind of a colloquial joke. You know that, 'Oh, yeah, the starving college students,'" she said. "But in reality, it's quite real."

According to Byrne-Hoffman, up to 40% of students are food insecure at some point during their time at WVU.

"We really need to kind of bring that to the forefront," she said.

Lily Neilsen, a senior environmental soil and water sciences and political science major, volunteers at the WVU Food Garden and is helping with the garden-based workshops.

She said even students in dorm rooms are capable of starting their gardens.

"Anything can grow in a container. Something that I like to look at recently is microgreens. You can buy certain varieties, and they grow super fast," Neilsen said.

She also emphasized how useful it is for students to understand the process of growing food, even if they don't plan on starting their own garden.

"It's really important for the community and students to understand where food comes from, and that the process from farm to table is a long and hard one," she said.

The first of four sessions was held Monday, Feb. 27 in Percival Hall and focused on garden planning, site selection, soil and planting techniques.



PHOTO COURTESY CAMPUS FOOD GARDEN

The Campus Food Garden's urban farm and learning center is located in Westover.



PHOTO COURTESY CAMPUS FOOD GARDEN

Members of the Campus Food Garden gather for the Westover Urban Farm Community Night.

The coming sessions will be held at the Westover Urban Farm and consist of a seed starting session on March 25 at 2 p.m., a lesson in composting on April 15 at 2 p.m. and a tutorial on successful transplants on April 29 at 2 p.m.

Outside of these sessions, the WVU Food Garden will also host weekly community nights every Monday with mini-lessons and hands-on

gardening at the Westover Urban Farm starting March 20.

Byrne-Hoffman said her favorite part about being involved in the Food Garden is getting to connect with the community.

"I really love the community from it. I think I hear a lot of stories from people that I wouldn't get to hear if I was in a different role," she said.

The Campus Food Garden



PHOTO COURTESY CAMPUS FOOD GARDEN

The Evansdale Garden is part of the 28,250 square-foot Evansdale Greenhouse located 1201 Evansdale Drive Morgantown, WV 26506.

has produced and donated more than 7,000 pounds of fresh produce to The Rack at WVU, Pantry Plus More and the Community Kitchen in

downtown Morgantown.

Students interested in getting involved in the Campus Food Garden can visit its iServe.

### Crochet

Continued from page 1

on crocheting because it is so much fun."

Shuff and Cassandra Stewart, president of WVU's Runway of Dreams chapter, said they found Zhou's page on Instagram.

"We have just been trying to learn and navigate etiquette within the disability community," Stewart said.

She added that the crochet class was the first major event for Runway of Dreams.

"When we see a disabled creator doing something awesome, the first thing we do is check out their page to see what they're about, see what values they're promoting, and see how maybe we can engage and then we reach out to them," Stewart said.

After starting the WVU chapter of Runway of Dreams in fall 2022, Stewart works to make every event accessible to all students.

"Our main goal as a place on campus is to be accessible and create a community," Stewart said. "Our main goal as a club is to fundraise for Runway of Dreams."

The club has a GoFundMe that is accepting donations. The club also plans to hold fundraisers and a fashion show to raise money for the Runway of Dreams Foundation.

"We want to work with everyone and anyone," Stewart said. "We just see so many ways that we can partner with organizations on campus and have the theme be accessibility and uplifting disabled voices and the community itself."

Students can get involved with the campus organization by visiting their Instagram, @runwayof-dreamswvu, or joining the club through WVUEngage.

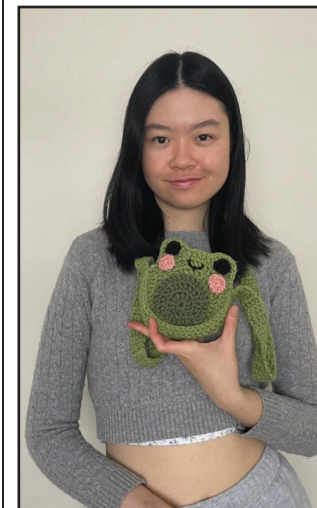


PHOTO COURTESY @IMHELEN-ZHOU ON INSTAGRAM

Helen Zhou is a TikTok creator who provides one-handed crocheting and knitting tips to viewers.



**Editor:**  
**Lara Bonatesta**  
lab0063@mix.wvu.edu

# CULTURE

**Assistant Editor:**  
**Sabrina Siegan**  
sas0088@mix.wvu.edu

## WVU names 69th Mountaineer

**BY LARA BONATESTA**  
CULTURE EDITOR

Mikel Hager of Madison, West Virginia, was named the 2023-24 Mountaineer Mascot on Saturday during the men's basketball game against Kansas State.

"Being selected as the Mountaineer mascot would mean the absolute world to me and my small town of Madison," Hager said. "Representing Mountaineer Nation and the people of West Virginia as the 69th Mountaineer would be a prestigious opportunity."

Hager is a senior exercise physiology major with minors in psychology and communication studies. He is a recipient of the PROMISE scholarship and a four-year member of the WVU Gold Cheer Team.

He also works as a volunteer math tutor at Suncrest Elementary School.

ementary School.

Hager was of four students who were nominated as a mascot finalist last month. The other three finalists were Braden Adkins, Christian Adkins and Bailey Gatens. Each year, mascot finalists are selected based on an essay and interview process.

Gatens withdrew as a mascot finalist after the cheer-off competition last week, according to a University press release.

He will officially become the Mountaineer after the formal "Passing of the Rifle" ceremony. The date of the ceremony has not yet been announced.

"I can't thank WVU enough for providing me with this platform to represent the 1.8 million people who call West Virginia home," Hager said. "I hope to make a lasting change across the state, country and



PHOTO BY JAKE TAYLOR

Mikel Hager, the 2023-24 Mountaineer mascot, leads his first cheer at the WVU Coliseum during the men's basketball game against Kansas State on March 4, 2023.

even the world."

Braden Adkins has been named as the alternate Moun-

taineer mascot.

Hager will officially debut as the Mountaineer Mascot at

the WVU spring football game on Saturday, April 22. Kick-off is scheduled for 1 p.m.

## Student gala celebrates African cultures

**BY SABRINA SIEGAN**  
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

The African Student Association (ASA) held its annual gala event this past Saturday to showcase cultures from the continent of Africa.

"African night is the biggest event for the African Students Association. It is always an exciting event for us African students," Grace Udah, a junior public health student and former ASA vice president from Abia State, Nigeria, said. "It is a time for us to show off different cultures in Africa and I have always loved attending."

ASA's "African Night: The Surge" was open to all of campus and the greater Morgantown area.

Sponsors of this year's event included WVU Student Government Association, Student Engagement and Leadership, Crystal Good from Black by God the West Virginian and the WVU Black Alumni Association.

"It's just basically to solidify the community, the African community here at WVU but also showcase bits and pieces of that culture," Sonia Ndifon, a senior biomedical engineering student and president of ASA, said.

According to Ndifon, ASA currently has about 80 members registered on WVUEngage. Most of those in ASA are graduate students but the body of members also includes undergraduate students.

To prepare for the event, ASA members and volunteers



PHOTO BY CONNOR GIBBONS

African Night MC and journalism student, Nathaniel Godwin and ASA's event coordinator and occupational and environmental health sciences student, Nafisat Isa stand on stage at African Night on March 4, 2023.

helped to advertise, decorate the Mountainlair Ballrooms and organize everything that was needed.

This was Ndifon's second time attending African Night and her first time running the event.

"My sophomore year we didn't have ASA at all. Then it was my junior year that I attended African night for the first time," Ndifon said. "We kind of brought the club back together, and I got everybody back together, re-registered everything and just tried to reignite that community here at WVU."

The events of the night were broken up into four segments, starting with an opening session that included a speech from Ndifon, ASA advisor Ibukun Ogunade and dignitary speaker Dean of Student Life Corey Farris.

During these speeches, the crowd was invited to grab African food specially catered by Zee's Kitchen, a small business

in Pennsylvania. The dishes served included jollof rice, fried rice, fried chicken, suya, pounded yam and egusi soup.

The third segment included a fashion show, pageant and talent show. The night ended with an award ceremony honoring ASA's graduates and the crowning of Miss and Mr. Africa based on popular votes from the audience, Ndifon said.

This year Udah was crowned Miss Africa and Abednego Abdi, from Ethiopia, was crowned Mr. Africa.

"Running for Miss Africa was a really great and exciting experience for me. My goal was to go on stage and represent my culture through my outfit, jewels and walk," said Udah. "My favorite part of the competition was my interaction with the audience, everyone was so hyped which made me feel confident."

This year's turnout to African Night was a little over a hundred people, slightly more



PHOTO COURTESY, GRACE UDAH

Miss Africa, Grace Udah and Mr. Africa, Abednego Abdi pose for a photo at African Night on March 4, 2023.

than expected. Ndifon had optimistically predicted around 100 people to attend African Night based on past numbers.

"I would say it's very rewarding because you get to say that 'Oh, I did that for somebody that is really cool' or 'Oh, we should have those foods that people can enjoy.' And I feel like it's a part of something that me and everyone, I would say most people, can enjoy because it's a celebration," Ndifon said about organizing the event.

Events hosted by ASA are open to everyone and a great way to explore different African cultures most students may not otherwise get a chance to interact with.

"One thing that I really

think about is the fact that most people, especially here at WVU, [ASA] may be their only chance to get a taste of Africa, the African continent, through the interactions with the people that they meet here," Ndifon said. "If we're having any events, you're highly welcome to [come]. You don't have to be in ASA, you don't have to be African. We're really just open to everyone and we would love to have any and everyone."

Ndifon said ASA usually meets every other Friday at 6 p.m. For more information on the organization as a whole visit their WVU Engage page or their Instagram @wvu\_asa to find out about any upcoming events.

## Three things to do in Morgantown this weekend

**BY DREW JONES**  
CORRESPONDENT

With spring break approaching, students are looking for ways to unwind from midterms. This week the Daily Athenaeum recommends relaxing with some blues music, a local band and a country concert.

### 1 Live Music with Jacob Turner at AntiquiTea House

Jacob Turner is an acoustic guitar player that specializes in Chicago Blues. He will be performing at AntiquiTea House at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 10. More information can be found on their website at <https://antiquiteahouse.com/events-1>.

### 2 Porch Couch Concert at Morgantown Art Bar

The Morgantown Art Bar is hosting Porch Couch, a band local to Morgantown. The event begins at 8 p.m. on March 10 with an entry fee of \$5. More information can be found on the Art Bar's Instagram page @morgantownartbar.

### 3 Willi Carlisle, Willy Tea Taylor, and Abe Partridge at 123 Pleasant Street

Willi Carlisle, a poet and a folk singer, will be making his Morgantown debut at 123 Pleasant Street on Saturday night, March 11. He is joined by country artists Willy Tea Taylor and Abe Partridge. The concert starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. More information can be found at [123pleasantstreet.com](https://123pleasantstreet.com).



Editor:  
Luke Morgan  
lim00002@mix.wvu.edu

## OPINION

# The 'Equal Protection for Religion Act' only protects discrimination

SUBMITTED BY REV. CINDY BRIGGS-BIONDI

Religious freedom. It's a loaded phrase.

As a clergyperson, I am thankful for the freedoms I have — to teach, preach and gather with my faith community without fear. Religious freedom is enshrined in our Constitution, and it makes our society a better place, as long as our freedom does not become a tool of conformity or oppression.

These days, there seems to be some confusion about what religious freedom is, as the West Virginia Legislature has passed a new bill — the "Equal Protection for Religion Act."

Perhaps this sounds strange coming from a pastor, but I am fervently opposed to this proposed law, which passed the House of Delegates and the State Senate and now waits for Gov. Jim Justice's signature or veto.

Looking at our current social and political climate, we

have to make note of some of the other legislation coming through this session — dozens targeted at the LGBTQ+ community.

The "Equal Protection for Religion Act" creates a judicial test for courts to determine whether the government substantially burdens a person's exercise of religion, paving the way to challenge local non-discrimination ordinances, like the one in Morgantown.

We see who is crafting and supporting these bills. These are the same people who have crafted and supported the bill, many of whom identify as Christian.

Who has this religious freedom really been created for? Is it for the protection of religious minorities? Or is it for a particular brand of Christian who wants to use faith to justify poor treatment of people (i.e., LGBTQ+ folk) who do not live according to their own narrowly defined moral code?

I hope and pray that this law does not end up being used in the ways that I fear. Time will tell.



PHOTO COURTESY WV LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY/PERRY BENNETT  
Rev. Cindy Briggs-Biondi speaks against HB 2007, which would ban gender-affirming care for minors, during a public hearing on Feb. 2, 2023.

I can't see into the future. But I can look into the past, and the past shows us that we do have much to fear.

You see, as much as I love the Church when it is at its

best, I cannot and will not overlook the Church when it is at its worst. And history has demonstrated time and again what it looks like at its worst.

When the Emperor Con-

stantine legalized Christianity and made it the state religion of the Roman Empire, the world changed. At that moment, in the intertwining of the Church and Empire, a new toxic relationship began — one in which the agendas of the powerful became enmeshed with the agenda of the Church.

Now those in power could use Scripture and tenets of the faith to justify all manner of things — violence, subjugation and blind allegiance.

At the same time, the Church began to enjoy the power and authority it was receiving, and before long, the Church was relying on the state to enforce its definition of "morality" and "faithfulness."

What has followed is 1700 years of misuse of Scripture and theology to justify practices of oppression — conquest and violence in the name of Christendom, slavery and racial discrimination, the Salem witch trials and sending indigenous children to Christian-run residential schools, among many other examples.

This is the Church and

Christianity at its worst. I fear this new "Equal Protection for Religion Act" will give a platform for the Church's worst impulses. I hope I am wrong.

This law is not only unnecessary but also harmful. The Apostle Paul tells the Galatian Christians in his letter to them that they are called to freedom. However, that freedom is not to be used for self-interest but "through love, to become slaves to one another" and that the "whole law is summed up in a single commandment — 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Furthermore, he names the fruit of the Spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things" (Galatians 5).

These are the Church's best impulses, and we don't need a law to protect that kind of freedom.

Rev. Cindy Briggs-Biondi is the pastor of St. Marks United Methodist Church in downtown Charleston.

## FOOD REVIEW | Gibbie's serves up more than drinks

BY MADELINE HARRIS  
FOOD CRITIC

When living in a place like Morgantown, one can expect bars, taverns and pubs as far as the eye can see.

Some students, however, may not know that one local bar is also a great place to grab a bite to eat.

Welcome to Gibbie's Pub and Eatery, located at 368 High Street, next door to Almost Heaven Bar and Grill.

Gibbie's has been open since August 1987, and has since had the goal to "create a comfortable atmosphere, delicious food, excellent service, and uphold the long-running restaurant tradition."

Along with beer and food, Gibbie's hosts a variety of events, including trivia nights and live entertainment.

Being a freshman, there are so many restaurants I didn't even know existed. When I got to Gibbie's, I realized that I had walked past the location many times without ever noticing.

When I entered Gibbie's with my friends Friday afternoon, I first noticed the establishment's low lighting. The only windows are at the front of the building, and everything else is illuminated by the bar and the lights hanging above each table.

The place was nearly empty when we arrived, and it's a larger building with a ton of tables and booths alongside the bar.

Our server did not write anything that we ordered down, and since we had five people eating, we were a bit concerned about his remembrance of our long orders.

Nonetheless, we decided to start with pretzel bites and fried pepperoni rolls for appetizers.

Our appetizers took about 10-15 minutes, and we were served fried pickles instead of pepperoni rolls. Our server was very apologetic and gave us the pepperoni rolls and pickles for free, which was fine by me.

The pretzel bites were absolutely delicious. They were small, greasy and super salty, with just the right amount of crispiness. One serving was plenty for the five of us to enjoy a few bites.

For my meal, I decided to go with the bacon cheeseburger, since Gibbie's is big on burgers. I had it cooked medium rare, with cheddar cheese, lettuce, onions, tomatoes and of course bacon. I got curly fries for my side.

I would say the burger was exactly what I had expected from the pub. It was a solid-tasting burger cooked the way I asked. The onions were particularly strong, which worked well for me since I'm a big onion fan.

The fries were also fantastic. I would love to know what seasoning they used because those were some of the best fries I have ever had.

And the pepperoni rolls were worth the wait. They tasted as good as they looked: the pepperoni was

### If you go:

#### Location:

368 High St,  
Morgantown, WV

#### Kitchen Hours:

- 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
- 21+ after 8:00 p.m.



PHOTO BY MADELINE HARRIS

Fried pepperoni rolls from Gibbie's.

friends would agree.

The burger turned out to be \$12. However, it fed me for two meals, so I would say it's definitely worth the price.

If you are looking for a very relaxed environment for a

meal, I would definitely say Gibbie's is the way to go. It's not too crowded during the day and is close to campus. Take a trip just to try those pepperoni rolls, and you won't be disappointed.





# PINOCCHIO'S

BOOKS & TOYS

## FOR THE KID IN ALL OF US!

BOOKS \* TOYS \* GAMES \* PUZZLES \* ARTS & CRAFTS \* SLIME \* PLUSHIES

OPEN THURSDAY - SATURDAY 11:00 - 3:00

318 CHESTNUT STREET  
MORGANTOWN, WV

CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14				15						16				
17				18						19				
20			21		22					23			24	
			25	26					27		28			
	29	30				31		32				33	34	
35				36			37			38				39
40			41		42				43		44			
45				46		47				48		49		
	50				51			52			53			
			54					55						
56	57	58		59		60	61	62		63	64	65	66	
67			68			69				70		71		
72						73						74		
75						76						77		

By Jimmy and Evelyn Johnson - www.qets.com

Across

- 1 Resort hotel
- 4 Swamp
- 9 Italian "dollars"
- 14 Headed
- 15 Reduce
- 16 Lonely
- 17 Miner's goal
- 18 Big cigarette
- 19 Adhere
- 20 Hitting ball without swinging
- 22 Sunken area outside the playing area
- 24 MGM's Lion
- 25 Environmental protection agency (abbr)
- 27 Type of music
- 29 Both sides completing a time at bat
- 32 Sneak
- 35 Luau dish
- 36 Acclaim
- 38 Challenges
- 40 Within
- 42 Devour (2 wds.)
- 44 Delivered by post
- 45 Layers
- 47 Demobilize
- 49 Some
- 50 US Gulf States dwellers
- 52 Plasm

- 54 Player unsuccessful in reaching a base
- 55 Possessive pronoun
- 56 American College of Physicians (abbr.)
- 59 Protective garments
- 63 Four balls
- 67 Texas stew
- 69 Hawaiian 'hello'
- 71 Heptad
- 72 Influential person
- 73 Dynast
- 74 Snake like fish
- 75 Canned chili brand
- 76 Eyesight, for example
- 77 Crossing home plate safely

Down

- 1 Sloven
- 2 South American nation
- 3 A fox's hole (2 wds.)
- 4 IBM Competitor
- 5 To wait
- 6 Prego's competition
- 7 Goes \_\_ (without a date)
- 8 Big sandwich
- 9 Lactose intolerance aid
- 10 Infirm
- 11 Churn
- 12 Green Gables dweller
- 13 Sego lily's bulb
- 21 Decade

- 23 Vase
- 26 Desert
- 28 Parent teacher groups
- 29 Type of Greek column
- 30 Meat curing ingredient
- 31 Forest clearing
- 32 Cut down tree left-over
- 33 Whipped dairy food
- 34 Reddish dye
- 35 Pock
- 37 Dined
- 39 Eye infection
- 41 Brand of sandwich cookie
- 43 Shines
- 46 Soaking
- 48 Hitter's club
- 51 Long-term memory
- 53 South southwest
- 56 Doings
- 57 Voucher for a small debt
- 58 Flat bread
- 60 Canoe propellers
- 61 Hint
- 62 Cologne (Gr.)
- 64 Declare positively
- 65 Place
- 66 Potter's oven
- 68 Fall behind
- 70 To be

For answers, visit thedaonline.com



Pet of the Week



PHOTO BY GABRIELA JASEK

Meet Nyla. She is a red basenji, known as the barkless dog. She can sit, lay down, roll over, paw and go to her bed and crate. Ask Nyla to go get "Mr.Ducky," and she'll bring you her favorite toy, which is a yellow ducky won in a claw machine at the Jersey Shore. Her favorite treats are peanut butter biscuits and McDonald's french fries.

Submit your favorite pet photo at [da-classifieds@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:da-classifieds@mail.wvu.edu)

SUDOKU

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

Sudoku puzzle brought to you by Jim Bumgardner at [krazydad.com](http://krazydad.com)

For answers, visit [thedaonline.com](http://thedaonline.com)

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

© 2017 KrazyDad.com



# IT'S PARCHED MADNESS

Week 1- March 8 - March 14

Week 2- March 15 - March 21

Week 3- March 22 - March 28

Week 4- March 29 - April 4

Week 5- April 5 - April 11

Winner Announced April 12

We asked you for your favorite bars, nightclubs, and restaurants in and around Morgantown, and now the top 32 will battle out for the title of Best Bar Champion! Fill out your bracket today and check back each week to find out who won each round, then check back April 12 when we announce the Best Bar Champion!

[thedaonline.com/contests](http://thedaonline.com/contests)[u92themoose.com/contests](http://u92themoose.com/contests)



# Women's hoops prepares for Big 12 Championship play on Friday

BY RACHEL LIBERT  
STAFF WRITER

The Big 12 Women's Basketball Championship will be underway this week from March 9-12 in Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium.

Texas enters the tournament as the No. 1 seed after tying Oklahoma in the regular season, with both teams finishing with a 14-4 record.

With Oklahoma at No. 2, Iowa State follows with the No. 3 seed and Oklahoma State enters the tournament at No. 4.

West Virginia earned the No. 5 spot after a 10-8 regular season conference record. With a fifth-place finish, the Mountaineers do not play on day one of the tournament but face off in the quarterfinals against No. 4 Oklahoma

State at 11 a.m. on March 10.

The Mountaineers and the Cowgirls split their regular season matchups, each with one win.

In their last matchup, fifth-year guard Madison Smith led West Virginia with 22 points. The guard averages 14.0 points per game, a crucial component of the Mountaineers' offense this season.

Two games will be played on day one of competition; No. 8 Texas Tech and No. 9 Kansas State will face off at 5 p.m., followed by game two of No. 7 Kansas versus No. 10 TCU.

Texas Tech comes to Kansas City with a 6-12 conference record, just one more win than Kansas State. In the regular season, the Red Raiders won both matchups by double digits, but a competitive game is likely to happen as both teams average similar



PHOTO BY MARY EVERETT

Womens Basketball team breaks before going on court during their game against Oklahoma State University on Mar. 1, 2023 at the Coliseum.

points per game.

TCU enters the tournament with just one conference win in the regular season, while Kansas split its regular sea-

son 9-9 in the Big 12. Despite Kansas taking both games over TCU in the regular season, an upset could occur if the Horned Frogs break the

Jayhawks' defense and limit turnovers.

While West Virginia's game starts day two of competition, Texas will play the winner of

game one at 1:30.

As the No.1 seed, Texas has the top-ranked defense in the Big 12 and the fourth-ranked offense. The top offense in the Big 12 comes from Oklahoma, who is set to play the winner of the Kansas-TCU matchup in the quarterfinals.

Day two of the tournament concludes with a matchup between No. 3 Iowa State and No. 6 Baylor. The teams split their regular season matchups each with one win, but the Cyclones enter with just one more conference win than the Bears.

Following the first two days of the tournament, the semi-final games will be played on Saturday, March 11 at noon and 2:30 p.m.

The winners of those games will play in the championship on Sunday, March 12, at 1 p.m. with streaming available on ESPN2.

# Three Mountaineers make NCAA Wrestling National Championship

BY MATT ROSS  
STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia University wrestling team traveled to Tulsa, Oklahoma, this weekend to compete in the Big 12 conference championship. Peyton Hall, Jordan Titus and Michael Wolfgram all advanced to compete in NCAA division one National Championships.

Peyton Hall came into the tournament with a solid chance of making it to Nationals. However, the 165 pound bracket was stacked from top to bottom.

Hall started his tournament with a solid win against Gerrit Nijenhuis from Oklahoma University who came into the tournament as the five seed. He pinned Nijenhuis in 4:38.

However, Hall's biggest challenge came in his semifinal match.

He faced off against former national champion David Carr of Iowa State. Hall didn't back down from the challenge but came up short, losing 3-1.

Hall finished in sixth place due to medical forfeit and punched his ticket for Nationals.

Jordan Titus had an outstanding tournament at 141 pounds. His bracket was also loaded from top to bottom with several ranked opponents.

The redshirt freshman won his first match over Garrett Kuchan of Air Force with a 9-3 win. He then was to wrestle Andrew Alirez, the number one ranked wrestler in the country. Alirez defeated Titus with a 14-5 win.

Titus continued to wrestle back in the consolation bracket. He won his next match 5-3 in an overtime thriller. His next match was a 4-3 loss to the number five seed Clay Carlson.

Titus was in a must-win match in order to qualify for nationals. Late in the third period, Titus got into a scramble and was able to secure the takedown to advance to nationals.

Michael Wolfgram was the last Mountaineer to qualify for nationals. Wolfgram looked impressive in his first match with a 7-4 win. His next match was a toss up against AJ Nevills.

Nevills scored a late takedown to defeat Wolfgram 3-2 in the quarterfinals. He bounced right back and went

on a tear, winning his match 17-3. Wolfgram would place eighth place, qualifying for nationals.

Killian Cardinale went into the tournament as the No. 1 seed in the 125 Bracket. He received a first round bye to the quarters but was injured in his first match and was unable to wrestle again.

At 133 pounds, Davin Rhoads was unsuccessful in his first match, losing 9-2 to Connor Brown of Missouri University. Rhoads also lost his next match going 0-2 in the tournament.

Sam Hillegas was in a great spot to be able to claim his spot to go to Tulsa. In the quarter finals, Hillegas lost his first match 3-1 in a rematch against Brock Mauller.

Hillegas needed two wins to keep his postseason alive. He ultimately lost in an exciting match to Isiah Delgado of Utah Valley 8-7.

Senior Alex Hornfeck had an unsuccessful performance. He went 0-2, losing to Vinny Zerban by pin as well as losing 9-1 in his rematch against Jason Kraisser.

Scott Joll started his tournament off with a bang at 174 pounds. Pinning his first opponent in a minute, Joll gained



PHOTO BY AVERY YEAROUT

Michael Wolfgram competes against a wrestler from No. 14 University of Northern Iowa at the Coliseum on Feb. 5, 2023.

momentum going into his next match.

Next, he was pinned by number one seed Peyton Mocco. Joll wrestled back to defeat Gavin Sax 7-4.

He was in a must win situation against number four seed Demetrius Romero. Only six wrestlers advanced to the 174 bracket. Joll lost 15-6 to Romero and would go on to

finish 7th place.

Anthony Carmen went 1-2 in the tournament, losing in heartbreaking fashion in his final match.

Carmen started off with an 8-4 win over Franklin Cruz. He then would lose his next match 16-3. In his final match he would lose 1-0 to Cade King of South Dakota State.

Austin Cooley placed sev-

enth and was unable to keep his season alive. After losing his first match, he went on a streak where he won two close matches. However, he would lose in a must win match against Evan Bockman 4-2.

The Mountaineers will return to action for one last time in Tulsa, Oklahoma to compete in the National Championships on March 8.



# Men's basketball to kick off Big 12 Tournament

BY LUKE BLAIN  
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

The West Virginia University men's basketball team will play the opening game of the Phillips 66 Big 12 Men's Basketball Championship on Wednesday. The Mountaineers hold the eighth seed and are set to take on No. 9 Texas Tech at 7 p.m.

WVU comes into the tour-

namment with a strong finish to the regular season, having defeated Iowa State on the road and winning convincingly against No. 11 Kansas State.

Texas Tech (16-15, 5-13 Big 12) finished the regular season on a three-game losing streak. Even though the Red Raiders managed to go on a 5-2 stretch during conference play, it was not enough to overcome their 0-8 start.

The Mountaineers split the season series against Texas Tech, most recently losing 78-72 at the Coliseum.

The loss was certainly a blemish on WVU's resume, as the team held an eight-point lead with 8:41 remaining before giving up an 11-0 run. It was a total collapse, as the Mountaineers never regained the lead.

Inside scoring was a key

point in the last game for the Red Raiders, as they scored the Mountaineers 20-8 in the paint in the last matchup.

The Mountaineers have less depth in the front court now, as sophomore forward Mohamed Wague is out indefinitely with a right foot injury.

Texas Tech will be playing in the tournament without head coach Mark Adams. Adams has been suspended by the university for the use of a "racially insensitive" comment toward his team, per Texas Tech Athletic Communications.

The Red Raiders are led in

scoring by Super-Senior Kevin O'Banor with 14.4 points per game.

Senior Fardaws Aimaq is also a key player for Texas Tech. The 6'11 forward has missed a lot of time this season due to injury, including the first game against the Mountaineers.

While Aimaq was only 2-10 from the field in the victory over WVU, he went 10-10 from the free-throw line and had 12 rebounds.

Fifth-year senior guard Erik Stevenson leads the Mountaineers in scoring with 15.5 points per game. He had a stel-

lar end to the season, as he averaged 24.6 points per game in the last five outings.

If the Mountaineers get a win on Wednesday, they will face off against the top-seeded Kansas Jayhawks on Thursday. While WVU was swept by Kansas, the last matchup was very close with the Mountaineers only losing by two points.

All games for the Men's Big 12 Championship will be played at the T-Mobile Center in Kansas City Missouri. The contest against the Red Raiders will be broadcasted on ESPN.



PHOTO BY TYLER PRUSINA

Members of the WVU men's basketball team huddle during a timeout in a game against Texas Tech on Feb. 18, 2023.

## SAVE YOUR SKIN



This semester, don't forget to wear hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen outdoors to protect yourself from sunburns, skin cancer, and cataracts.

Be sure to use broad spectrum sunscreen that blocks both UVA and UVB rays and has an SPF of 30.



**Student Health Building**  
Mon – Fri: 7:45 am — 8:00 pm  
Sat: 9:45 am — 4:00 pm

304-285-7200 @WVUSafety  
WVUMedicine.org/StudentHealth

**WVUMedicine**

# DAY OF GIVING MARCH 22 SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF STUDENT MEDIA

THE DA

U92  
THE MOOSE

PROSPECT  
and PRICE  
Creative

Student Media houses The Daily Athenaeum, WVU's independent student newspaper, U92 The Moose, WVU's student-run radio station, and Prospect and Price Creative, WVU's student-run advertising and Marketing Agency. By supporting Student Media, you are giving real-world experience to students looking to break into the media industry.

#WVUDayofGiving [dayofgiving.wvu.edu](http://dayofgiving.wvu.edu)



# 'I'm a true fighter': Freshman tennis star Maja Dodik making a name for herself this season

BY TRENT LEWIS  
STAFF WRITER

Maja Dodik joined the West Virginia University tennis roster earlier this year. Since becoming a Mountaineer, she has shown potential to be a key player for the team.

West Virginia was recently ranked 51st in the nation for women's tennis. This marked the highest ranking in the program's history, and Dodik is a huge factor in this success.

The redshirt freshman from Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina won five of her last six singles matches and currently has an 8-3 singles record this season.

Despite being a newcomer to the team, Dodik swiftly adjusted to the Mountaineer atmosphere.

"Maja is someone who has really clicked with the team very quickly," head coach Miha Lisac said. "She was able to immerse herself in the group since the day she came on campus."

Dodik claimed a victory in her first-ever match as a Mountaineer, as she outlasted her opponent 7-5, 6-4 in a No. 6 position singles match against Penn in late January.

Since then, she has moved her way up to consistent play at the No. 4 singles position.

She is currently 3-1 when playing at the fourth seed.

In her first appearance at the No. 4 position, Dodik defeated freshman Bella Pescatore from Mount St. Mary's 6-4, 7-5. Two matches later, she claimed another victory at the No. 4 position, winning 6-3, 6-1 against Morgan State freshman Lauryn Hall.

Most recently, Dodik defeated Howard senior Yemisi Ifederu 6-3, 6-0. The match marked the second time this season she has won a set without losing a single game.

So far this season, Dodik has won numerous matches in a dominant fashion. In all of her singles wins this season, Dodik has not lost a set.

"For my success, the key is to fight," Dodik said. "I'm a true fighter. Since I started playing tennis at the age of five, I just love to compete."

Earlier this year, Lisac also recognized how much fight she puts in for every match.

"I think Maja showed that she is someone who is going to battle, lay it on the line, and do everything she can do to bring points to our team," Lisac said after her Dodik's performance against Penn State in February.

However, Dodik's fight and emotion is not the only aspect of her game. During matches and practices, she puts a lot of emphasis on listening to her coaches to improve her abilities on the court.

"She is someone who is very open to listen and develop her game," Lisac said. "She is open to coaching, and you can already see the progress from two months ago."

Her teammates also contribute to her success. Whether it is during the match or at practice, Dodik claims that her team always encourages her as much as possible.

"If one girl loses her match and I'm playing next match, she is going to support me the same as if she won the match," Dodik said.

As a redshirt freshman, Dodik still has more years to develop. With the rest of her collegiate career still in front of her, Lisac is certain there is only more to come.

"She has already taken steps forward, but for her, it is only the beginning," Lisac said. "She still has a long way ahead of her."



PHOTO BY LUKE BLAIN

Redshirt freshman Maja Dodik against Morgan State at Summit Tennis Academy on Feb. 25, 2023.

## WVU hosts NCAA Zone A Diving Championships

BY TRENT LEWIS  
STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia University dive team will compete in the NCAA Zone A Diving Championships this week at The Aquatic Center at Mylan Park in Morgantown.

The championships will take place March 6-8. Action began Monday at noon, while the final day of events will begin at 11 a.m. Wednesday.

Five Mountaineers will be representing WVU at the championships for Zone A. Sophomore Sarah Krusinski, freshman Abigail Sullivan and senior Marian Tiemeler will compete on the women's side of the competition, while senior Owen Johns and sophomore Glenn Eloriaga will compete on the men's side.

Eloriaga and Krusinski will be competing in all three events on their respective sides, which includes the 1-meter, 3-meter and platform events.

Tiemeler and Johns will only compete in the 1-meter and 3-meter events on their respective sides, while Sullivan will be competing in the 1-meter and platform events

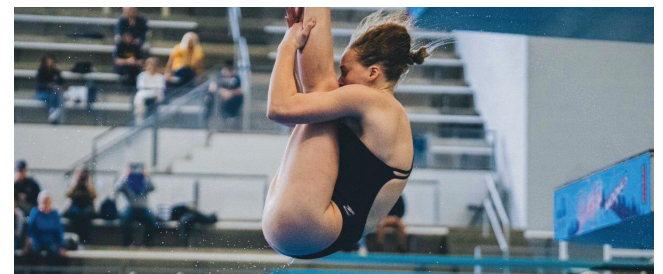


PHOTO COURTESY WVU ATHLETICS

Competition for the NCAA Zone A Diving Championships began on March 6, 2023, at The Aquatic Center at Mylan Park in Morgantown.

at the championships.

The NCAA qualification standards for men required a score of at least 300 for 1-meter, 320 for 3-meter and 300 for platform throughout the past season. For the women, the required score is at least 265 for 1-meter, 280 for 3-meter and 225 for platform.

There are five total zone meets spread across the NCAA. For each event, there is a different number of qualification spots for the NCAA Championship.

The top four male and top five female divers from the platform event at each zone will automatically qualify for the NCAA Championship. The top six male and top five divers from the 1-meter will qual-

ify, and the top five male and top six female divers from the 3-meter will qualify as well.

Based on how the zone performed at last season's NCAA Championship, each zone will earn an additional amount of qualifying spots for each event.

Divers from 44 different schools are scheduled to participate in the NCAA Zone A Diving Championships.

The women's 3-meter and men's 1-meter championships will take place on Monday, while the men's 3-meter and the women's 1-meter will occur on Tuesday. The final day of the championships will include both the men's and women's platform championships.

## SPRING BREAK SAFETY TIPS

### Limit Alcohol

Alcohol can affect your ability to make sound decisions. Remember to not drink and drive.

Alternate alcoholic drinks with nonalcoholic drinks (water is a great choice).



### Practice Safe Sex

If you choose to be sexually active use protection to reduce the risk of STIs and unplanned pregnancy.

### Be Active

Do a variety of fun activities like walking, dancing, playing volleyball, swimming, etc



WELLWVU



# THE DA

## Listen to the The DA Podcasts

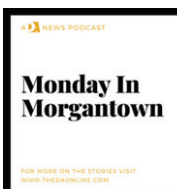
<https://www.thedaonline.com/podcasts/>



**This is DubV 411-** West Virginia University's very own weekly update podcast. Every week, Maddie Harris and Lauren Taylor will fill you in on the buzz happening in the coming week on campus and around Morgantown.

A PODCAST SERIES

WVU is such a big school with so many opportunities that there's always something fun and interesting to do. So tune in every Friday wherever you listen to your podcasts and get inspired to go out and try something new!



**Monday in Morgantown-** Monday in Morgantown is a weekly news podcast aimed at keeping you caught up on all the events on campus at West Virginia University. Each Monday, a new episode detailing all the news you might've missed will be released.



**Women in Science and Medicine Podcast-** The Women in Science and Medicine podcast features discussions with female scientists within West Virginia University and other institutions. In this series, we'll share the achievements and insights from some of the country's top female scientists and learn from their experiences to understand how they came to be passionate about science and overcame any obstacles in their paths. This podcast is offered by West Virginia University's Office of Research and Graduate Education.



### Online Roadmap (WVU Online)

Learn more about the online programs and tools offered by WVU Online. We'll talk registration, resources, courses, benefits and more.



**Time Out** is a podcast focused on issues in sport leadership, performance and health with a wide range of experts and industry leaders. This podcast is offered by WVU's College of Applied Human Sciences School of Sport Sciences graduate online programs.



**GradLife 601** 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.



**Every Wednesday,** Wellbeing Wednesdays is a weekly podcast exploring what wellbeing means at West Virginia University. Listen to get to know more about the folks doing work on the ground at the university in addition to some light-hearted fun as we take a look at wellbeing in popular culture.

**Do you have an idea for a podcast,  
Prospect and Price Creative can  
help you make it happen. Call 304-293-4141 or email  
info@prospectandpricecreative.com**

## THE DA Classifieds

**304-293-4141**

da-classifieds@mail.wvu.edu  
284 Prospect St., Morgantown, WV  
Monday-Friday 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

**SELL • BUY • RENT • JOBS → GET RESULTS!**

### Classified liner ads

(20 words or fewer)  
1 edition \$12  
2 editions \$19  
3 editions \$24  
4+ editions \$9 per day

### Classified display rates per day

1x2 \$38  
1x3 \$58  
1x4 \$77  
1x5 \$93  
1x6 \$115

**Additional charges per day**  
**Boxed ad \$3; All letters bold \$3;**  
**More than 20 words \$.25 per word**

### Deadlines

Noon on Monday for Wednesday paper

**All liner ads are included on thedaonline.com!**

**ADS  
MUST BE  
PREPAID**

## MISC. FOR SALE

**FURNITURE FOR SALE** Dining room table with 6 chairs, hardwood with tile top \$425. Solid wood bedroom suit 2 dressers 1 with mirror, 2 nightstands and full size bed \$450. 55 gallon fish tank system with stand. \$325 Call 301-750-4018

## HELP WANTED

**CAREGIVER \$13/hr.** Full/part-time, for pleasant disabled young person, 7p.m.-midnight/7p.m. - 7a.m./possible day shift/4-5 hr. part-time shifts also available, to provide adult daily living skills. Position will provide excellent experience for social science/medical field student. Call or text resume to 304-685-4736.

**DSP full time able to provide adult daily living skills** Position will provide excellent experience for social science/medical field student. To apply go to [www.rescare.com/careers](http://www.rescare.com/careers) or call 304-622-0033 and ask for Cathy or Barbara.

**LPN(\$22/HR + BENEFITS)** to care for pleasant disabled person in his home in Morgantown. 3-12-hour shifts/week. Text resume or call: 304-685-4736.

## FURNISHED APARTMENTS



**NOW LEASING**  
For full list of apartments available contact us at  
**304-296-3606**

Text: 681-214-1460  
info@benttreecourt.com

## METRO PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

LARGEST & FINEST SELECTION  
OF APARTMENTS AND  
TOWNHOMES!

1, 2 & 3 BEDROOM

FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED

STUDENT RESIDENTIAL  
304-413-0900 & 304-598-9001

[www.liveatmetro.com](http://www.liveatmetro.com)

## UNFURNISHED HOUSES

**3-BR NEAR LAW SCHOOL/MED CENTER** Convenient to Evansdale/Downtown, no pets. \$1200/per month, available May 29; and other houses. Barry 304-276-3792

**DO YOU OWN APARTMENTS?** Need to get your apartments rented? Call 304-293-0082 to place your ad in The DA classifieds. Your ad will be on our website 24/7, in our weekly newsletter and in our print edition.

## UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

## Aerostar Apartments



### Now Leasing

Downtown & Evansdale

**RATES START AT  
\$330 PER PERSON**

- ♦ 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 BRs Available
- ♦ Furnished/Unfurnished Options
- ♦ Washer/Dryer Options
- ♦ Pet Friendly
- ♦ FREE PARKING!
- ♦ 24 Hour Emergency Maintenance

### CALL TODAY!

Our convenient locations put you exactly where you want to be...

☆ Call Today ☆  
**304-598-3300**

aerostar@czsproperties.com

**Mon. - Fri.  
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

Appointments available  
by request

## UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

**SMITH  
RENTALS, LLC**

**304-676-0930**

- Houses
- 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments  
\$500 - \$900 per month

**Check out:**  
[www.smithrentalsllc.com](http://www.smithrentalsllc.com)

## RICE RENTALS Now Renting for 2023-2024

- Great Locations!
- Affordable Rent!
- Quality Housing
- Eff., 1, 2 & 3 BR Available
- Call for pricing  
**(304) 598 - 7368**  
RICERENTALS.COM



### Now Renting

Eff. 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms  
One Bedroom as low  
as \$485

Two Bedrooms as low  
as \$395 per person

Three Bedrooms  
as low as \$370 per person

- Pets Welcome
- 24 Hour Emergency Maintenance
- Next to Football Stadium & Hospital
- State of the Art Fitness Center
- Mountain Line Bus Every 15 Minutes

Office Hours  
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
\*Appointments Available\*

**304-599-7474**

Morgantown's Most  
Luxurious Living  
Community

[www.chateauroyaleapartments.com](http://www.chateauroyaleapartments.com)

## Looking to get involved. Student Media is the place for you.



Prospect & Price  
Creative  
Ad agency



The Daily  
Athenaeum  
News Media



U92  
The Moose  
91.7 FM





# IT'S PARCHED MADNESS

We asked you for your favorite bars, nightclubs, and restaurants in and around Morgantown, and now the top 32 will battle out for the title of Best Bar Champion! Fill out your bracket today and check back each week to find out who won each round, then check back April 12 when we announce the Best Bar Champion!

Week 1- March 8 - March 14

Week 2- March 15 - March 21

Week 3- March 22 - March 28

Week 4- March 29 - April 4

Week 5- April 5 - April 11

Winner Announced April 12



[thedaonline.com/contests](https://thedaonline.com/contests)



[u92themoose.com/contests](https://u92themoose.com/contests)

## MOST FACULTY AND STAFF GIFTS CHALLENGE:

As faculty or staff members, you make a difference every day for students and programs. Support an area most meaningful to you and help make a greater impact. The top three participating groups with the most faculty and staff gifts by the end of the day on March 22 win additional funding.

*Let's go!*



## DAY OF GIVING

MARCH 22, 2023

[dayofgiving.wvu.edu](https://dayofgiving.wvu.edu)

**#WVUDayofGiving**



WVU Foundation



@WVUFoundation



@wvufoundation