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WVU revises deficit to \$45 million

School officials say PEIA changes will increase expenses next fiscal year

BY TRENTON STRAIGHT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

West Virginia University officials have projected that the school's budget deficit will widen to \$45 million next fiscal year after the recent increase in insurance premiums for public employees.

This is \$10 million higher than the forecast shared last month during President Gordon Gee's State of the University Address.

Rob Alsop, vice president for Strategic Initiatives, told faculty Monday that the sudden adjustment was largely due to changes to PEIA by state lawmakers.

He added that the increase in insurance premiums for public employees was higher than he expected, causing a significant jump in the school's projected expenses next year.

"I made an incorrect assumption based on everything I've heard from the Legislature and folks in Charleston," Alsop said.

Last week, the PEIA Finance Board approved a 24% increase in premiums as part of a healthcare plan passed by Gov. Jim Justice and state



Stewart Hall, WVU's administration building, overlooks University Avenue on March 31, 2023.

PHOTO BY TRENTON STRAIGHT

lawmakers, affecting nearly 230,000 public employees.

According to Alsop, the University pays about 80% of the total cost of PEIA premiums for its employees.

"[PEIA] added several million dollars to that figure to move forward..." he said. "But that figure is just about our target next year."

WVU's deficit could reach \$75

million in the next five years, which school officials attribute to declining enrollment and high costs from inflation and wage increases.

As the main source of revenue for

the University, enrollment will be the primary factor in the school's financial future.

Officials expect enrollment to drop by 5,000 students in the next decade.

"The revenues we're anticipated to get from the students in the market share that we have are not keeping up with the expense structure and the expenses that we have from a people and a supplies perspective of the institution," Alsop said.

To cover the deficit next year, Alsop said the University plans to cut costs by \$21 million to make up for lost revenue caused by low enrollment. He added that \$24 million of funding from the WVU Foundation will also be allocated as a "one-time effort."

"Given the ability to deploy some unspent endowment [funds], the Foundation is giving us a transition year. But it's not something that's permanent," Alsop said.

Despite proposed tuition increases, he noted the University still expects revenue losses in the coming years.

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Task force to address campus carry, student safety concerns

BY JULES OGDEN
NEWS EDITOR

Amid concerns about campus carry, school officials are forming a new group to address safety at West Virginia University.

The Campus Safety Group was first announced by President E. Gordon Gee in a letter to the University following the passage of Campus Carry,

a law that would allow the concealed carry of firearms on school property with some exceptions.

Though the law will not go into effect until July 2024, the Campus Safety Group will include a subcommittee to address outlined accommodations the University must make to regulate concealed weapons in some areas, such as gun safes in some residence halls.

Dean of Students Corey Farris and

Vice President for University Relations and Enrollment Management Sharon Martin will lead the formation of the Campus Safety Group as co-chairs and are still working on developing subcommittees.

Farris said they currently have no concrete plans on which concerns they will address first or how they might do so because they are still in the preliminary stages of forming the group.

Additionally, the larger working group will facilitate conversations about general campus safety, which may include ensuring the continued function of the Blue Light Emergency Call System and increasing safety measures downtown.

"We're constantly looking, quite frankly, at campus safety, at our community safety, you know, what's right up next to our physical campus, the downtown area or our student resi-

dence or residential neighborhoods that have a whole lot of students there," Farris said.

The Daily Athenaeum first reported on several broken emergency call boxes around campus in October 2021. Nearly half were still confirmed by schools officials to be inoperable as of January 2023.

See Safety page 4

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WVU Clothesline Project will bring awareness to sexual harm and gender-based violence

BY LAUREN TAYLOR
CORRESPONDENT

WVU's annual Clothesline Project will return next week in recognition of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The Clothesline Project is a visual display of t-shirts and other articles of clothing to bring awareness to resources and represent statistics of sexual harm and gender-based violence. Each clothing item is designed by a survivor or someone who has lost a loved one to violence.

The event is sponsored by WVU in partnership with the Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center (RDVIC), the WVU Research Center on Violence and the Women's Resource Center.

Danielle Stoneberg, a fifth-year doctoral student and a volunteer at the WVU Research Center on Violence, said the event aims to make survivors feel seen and supported on campus.

"I think that we can all say that we know of at least one person who is a survivor or has experienced sexual harm and sexual violence, and I think it's important to have opportunities that go ahead and show you that people care and support you and, you know, even support survivors more broadly," she said.

In a quality of life survey conducted in the spring of 2016, 26% of students at WVU reported being asked or pressured for a date, hookup or sexual favor after they had already said no.

Stoneberg said she hopes the event can act as an outlet for survivors who may not have shared their stories.

"We know that not all people who have been victimized report it, whether that be to Title IX or to the police, and also they might not be telling anyone either," she said.

"Having events like this where you can kind of see that

If you go:

The Clothesline Project

Where:

- **Student Rec Center**
- **Downtown Library**

When:

- **April 18 and 20**
- **Noon to 3 p.m.**

there is solidarity presents an opportunity for you to maybe share your experience or even if you're not verbally sharing it, feel like there is a community of people that you can kind of stand with who are going to support you."

Mackenzie Freeman, a Ph.D. student and volunteer with the Clothesline Project, said she hopes the event starts a conversation among the student body.

"I would like students here at WVU to kind of be more open and kind of be receptive of this conversation, primarily because, you know, it is so difficult and it's so hard, and, you know, we really don't know the impact of sexual violence on our campus," she said.

The Clothesline Project will be on display at the Student Rec Center on Tuesday, April 18, from noon to 3 p.m. and at the Downtown Library on Thursday, April 20, from noon to 3 p.m.

The Women's Resource Center's Silent Witness Exhibit will also be displayed at the WVU Downtown Library



PHOTO BY SOPHIA VALACHOVIC

The Clothesline Project displayed shirts decorated by survivors of sexual assault and violence outside the Student Rec Center on April 11, 2022.

through May.

Any student who wishes to report an incident is encouraged to seek medical attention and contact Campus Police or a University official and WVU's Title IX office.

Students looking for Rape and Domestic Violence Information Center resources can visit its website or utilize its 24-hour phone hotline by calling (304) 292-5100. Additional resources can be found on WVU's Research Center on Violence's website or the Women's Resource Center's website.

"Having events like this where you can kind of see that there is solidarity presents an opportunity for you to maybe share your experience, or even if you're not verbally sharing it, feel like there is a community of people that you can kind of stand with who are going to support you."

-Danielle Stoneberg, volunteer at the WVU Research Center on Violence

Budget

Continued from page 1

With that in mind, school officials are preparing to operate as a smaller institution — one with fewer employees and programs.

Alsop and Provost Mary-

anne Reed provided some updates on these efforts Monday during a Faculty Senate meeting, saying administrators and colleges would be finalizing budget cuts in the next month.

However, a specific timeline and the number of jobs that would be impacted were not shared in the meeting.

"We'll get you the timelines

of information as soon as we can possibly do," Alsop told faculty members. "I don't like this not knowing as much as anybody, and we'll try to get that clarity to you as quickly as we can — for a number of reasons."

So far, officials have shared that employee reductions could range from not replac-

ing positions due to retirement to reevaluating contracts for nonclassified staff.

Reed said the Provost's Office would also be taking a "more aggressive approach" to academic transformation, which measures the overall success of degree programs.

Though specifics weren't shared on which colleges

would be impacted, Reed said these efforts could come in the form of combining colleges or academic programs in future years.

She said the Provost's Office will also be looking at the performance of individual programs, including their research efforts, revenue and enrollment trends.

"So the point is, some of this may happen sooner rather than later. I know there's a desire for certainty. I completely understand that ..., " Reed said. "But just know that we're going to move on this expeditiously but also thoughtfully."

WVU researchers receive grant from NASA

BY SAVANNAH JONES
CORRESPONDENT

A West Virginia University research team received a \$748,000 grant last month from NASA's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) to continue their innovative work in space propulsion.

Oleg D. Jefimenko professor of physics and astronomy Earl Scime and Research Assistant Professor Thomas Steinberger have been studying alternative power sources for propulsion thrusters on spacecraft since 2018. Now, they have finally hit a breakthrough.

"This is kind of the exciting moment for me because it's been many, many years since we've started the beginning of this project, and now we're seeing that come to fruition," Steinberger said.

Spacecraft thrusters have been powered by gasses such as hydrazine, xenon, krypton and argon in the past, but all are either toxic or scarce, according to a University press release. However, Scime and Steinberger's project studies the use of ionized iodine as an alternative fuel source.

The team uses "laser induced fluorescence" in their lab to measure the speed and the temperature of gas, mak-

ing them the first group in the world to do so on ionized iodine, according to Steinberger.

With the grant, Scime said the team will use lasers to measure the speed at which gas in the form of plasma comes out of a rocket engine for NASA. He described the grant as the team's "foot in the door" for further propulsion research.

"We're aware that there's a need in propulsion communities to develop these kinds of techniques, so it's something we approached NASA with as a proposal," Scime said.

The pair began work on the project in late 2017 when Steinberger approached Scime as a graduate student in hopes to work in his lab.

After publishing multiple papers, creating a diagnostic to measure the speed and temperature of gas and working past a few trouble spots, EPSCoR's grant will finally allow the team to move forward.

"This award really helps us build the infrastructure and the facility to do [research] here, so we don't have to go anywhere," Steinberger said. "We had a concept, we had proven proof of principle, we just need the infrastructure to be able to be competitive."

Additionally, this grant allows for more students to join the research team.



PHOTO COURTESY WVU PHOTO/NATHANIEL GODWIN

Graduate student Ripu Singh Nirwan (left) and research assistant professor Thomas Steinberger work on a nanosecond laser, which will be used to examine alternative power sources for spacecraft propulsion.

"We currently have more work than people," Steinberger said. "This [grant] opens up the capacity to have new students come work with us, be able to learn a lot of plasma physics, diagnostic hardware,

lasers and space physics."

This six-year project did not come without its trials, as Scime and Steinberger have attempted to earn this specific grant before. Steinberger attributes this year's success to

more preliminary data.

"We submitted a proposal last year, and it didn't make it out of the WVU process," Scime said. "We submitted again this year, or late last year, made it out of the WVU

process, and we submitted it to NASA and were awarded funding."

He emphasized that this project is part of a much bigger effort at WVU.

"We've been working towards having these sorts of capabilities at WVU for decades, and it's nice to finally have the capacity to do these experiments," Scime said.

The team's success not only provides them with additional credibility and resources as researchers, but they said the University will also benefit from the prestigious award.

"Hopefully this gives us the credibility and the experience to start to build propulsion systems for small spacecraft here at WVU, and then also collaborate with people around the country and in the world who do this kind of work," Scime said.

WVU's Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources has received funding for multiple spacecraft building initiatives in the past, and Steinberger believes that this grant will allow for the college to continue the progress made by past projects and push towards new horizons.

"This [grant] allows us to maintain our status as a leader, but also remain competitive for future funding opportunities," Steinberger said.

LGBTQ+ Center to hold 10th annual Lavender Graduation

BY KATELYN ALUISE
INVESTIGATIONS EDITOR

West Virginia University's LGBTQ+ Center will hold its 10th annual Lavender Graduation on Sunday, April 23 in the Art Museum of WVU.

The ceremony, which predates the creation of the LGBTQ+ Center in 2016, was started by the WVU LGBTQ+ Commission to recognize the "achievements, persistence and accomplishments of graduating LGBTQ+ students," according to the Center's Program Coordinator Brad Grimes.

A survey featured in Best Colleges and first reported by USA Today showed that 92% of LGBTQ+ college students said their mental health had been negatively impacted by their college experience.

In the same survey, one in four LGBTQ+ college students said they had considered dropping out.

Grimes said this is often a product of the harassment,

discrimination and lack of familial and financial support that these students may face during college.

He said the Lavender Graduation is not meant to be a replacement for other commencement ceremonies, but rather a compliment to these events in honor of the additional achievement of reaching graduation as an LGBTQ+ student.

"We really want to celebrate the persistence, like everyone, be it the courage and the persistence and the finishing and obtaining a degree for these LGBTQ students," Grimes said.

The LGBTQ+ Center has invited alumni to participate in the ceremony this year in recognition of its 10th anniversary and to give any past student who may have previously missed the ceremony the chance to be honored for their achievements.

The first hour of the two-hour event will be the actual commencement ceremony. Each student will be called to the front of the room following the announcement of their degree, where they will receive

a certificate of achievement, a rainbow honor cord and a lavender rose, along with having their picture taken.

This is followed by a keynote speaker. Grimes said President E. Gordon Gee or Provost Maryanne Reed has also been known to give remarks in the past when they are available.

Grimes said the rainbow cords, which are given free of charge, are often worn by these students at their college commencement ceremonies.

The second hour of the event will feature a reception with light snacks, hors d'oeuvres and a chance for students to celebrate how far they have come.

"Lavender Graduation is one of our biggest and most important events that we do every year. The students really, really love it and tell us what a positive event it is for them and how much it means for them to be recognized and celebrated and acknowledged in that way," Grimes said.

"So we look forward to it every [year]. It's a tradition that I love, and at the Center, it's re-

ally important to us, so we're going to be doing it as long as we can."

While students are not currently given scholarships at these ceremonies, Grimes said the Center is trying to make this a possibility in the future.

"Sadly, some LGBTQ young people are kicked out of their homes or have strange relationships with their families because of their sexual or gender identity," he said. "Many LGBTQ students can't count on their family for emotional and financial support while they're out in college ... Like sometimes they're already dealing with providing their own housing, things like that."

Grimes said that, while the venue for the ceremony is limited to 150 people, anyone may attend, even if they are not related to the graduates or alumni.

The event will be held in the Education Center of the museum from 3-5 p.m. Attendees may register by going to Eventbrite or through the "Events" page of the WVU LGBTQ+ Center website.

Safety

Continued from page 1

This prompted conversations with the Student Government Association and other members of the campus community regarding their perceived value to students.

However, after further debate, Gee announced the school's planned restoration during his State of University Address in March. As of Monday, 21 of the 30 call boxes are operational, with eight pending repair, according to Director of News Communications Shauna Johnson.

Farris also said that he has considered partnerships with Morgantown Police to enhance safety in high-traffic areas for students in and around campus, and that school officials have had regular conversations with SGA about safety concerns.

Last fall, The DA reported on three shooting incidents in downtown Morgantown, some of which were less than a mile from campus. While community notices were shared through WVU Safety and Wellness, campus-wide alerts were not issued during the incidents.

Farris said that off-campus safety will continue to

be an area the school examines through the larger working group.

"That will be part of our conversation of okay, how are we addressing on-campus safety and what can we do to enhance it? And similarly, on the other side of that, when we're looking at what's going on off campus, is there anything that we can do to enhance our students' safety when they're off campus?" he said.

According to Farris, the working group's goals will structure previous efforts by the University to increase safety measures and communicate new initiatives or updates with faculty, staff, students and parents.

"We're just formalizing a little bit more some of the things that we've been doing," he said. "But also, like I said, we know that we've got the campus carry legislation that we need to be ready for implementation when it occurs on July 1, 2024."

Martin and Farris will begin assembling members within the next couple of months, according to Farris. Interested faculty, staff and students should email Martin or Farris to nominate either themselves or someone else.

Nashville musician releases odes to his Morgantown roots

BY CONNOR GIBBONS
STAFF WRITER

Nashville based musician Kevin Major, a Morgantown native and WVU alumni, is paying tribute to the area that shaped him in his most recent releases.

With a career in music spanning decades, Major got his start in music at the age of 12 and began writing songs of his own. He began playing in bands at the age of 16 and from then on he stuck with his musical habits and expanded his catalog.

Major played in rock bands and later grew into a country style due to his attraction to the storytelling elements of country music.

His most recent songs — “West by God Virginia” and “Jerry Alan West” — encapsulate a feeling of home, good



PHOTO COURTESY JACK MAJOR

Kevin Major poses for a photo with his guitar.

memories, friends and family for him.

Major released “West by God Virginia” as a sentimental homage to the state in December 2022.

“You can offer your time,

your treasure or your talent,” Major said. “What I offered, at least in this case, was my time and hopefully my talent to try to contribute to something that might help the state.”

Initially, Major was hesi-

tant to take on the challenge of writing a song about West Virginia because of the impact John Denver has had on songs about the state.

“‘West by God Virginia,’ specifically, was a labor of love, but I was really afraid to write that song,” Major said. “I’m not suggesting this is ‘Country Roads,’ or anything like that, but this is my version of West Virginia, and I wanted to be able to tell that story.”

In “West by God Virginia,” Major pays his respect to Denver with the lyrics: “Where the country roads and mountains are magical.”

Major decided to write the songs about West Virginia because he wanted to shed some light on the beauty of the state and its people.

“Sometimes I don’t think we have a real fair shake out there in the way our state’s represented, and that was part of what drove me to want to

write songs about West Virginia,” Major said.

In August 2022, Major released the song “Jerry Alan West,” which tells the life story of the Morgantown hero, with a rock n’ roll attitude.

The song was born after a friend suggested he write about the local basketball star they grew up watching.

Major said a diverse range of artists have influenced him throughout his career from AC/DC to John Mayer to Keith Urban and the list goes on.

“If you keep your mind open, somewhere in there you have to come up with your own style,” Major said. “There are influences from all sorts of things.”

Major’s music is available on streaming platforms such as Youtube, iTunes, and Spotify. He can also be found on social media @kevinmajormusic.

Three things to do in Morgantown this weekend

BY SABRINA SIEGAN
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

With the end of the semester approaching, it may be easy to funnel energy into school work and studying for exams. For those looking to take a break, The Daily Athenaeum recommends an art walk, a tattoo expo as well as a craft beer and sweet treat fundraiser.

1 “In Bloom” Art Walk

This year’s series of Art Walks hosted by Main Street Morgantown will kick off Saturday, April 15. The theme of this street festival is “In Bloom” featuring local artisans and vendors.

Head to High St. from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and enjoy the day downtown. For more information, visit to Main Street Morgantown’s Facebook page.

2 Cupcake & Craft Beer Fest

For those 21 and over, join The Cupcakerie and other vendors for the sixth annual Cupcake and Craft Beer festival at Mylan Park this Saturday.

There will be plenty of beer to drink and contests to enter with live entertainment. VIP admission starts at noon and general admission at 1 p.m. with the event ending at 6 p.m. For ticket prices and more information head to the festival website.

3 Spring Tattoo Expo

The West Virginia Tattoo Expo will be making its annual stop at Two Waterfront Place on April 14-16.

The expo will feature vendors, contests and on-site professional tattooers and piercers. Day passes are available for \$20 and weekend passes are available for \$50. For more information on the three day event head to their website.

DEI chats promote student advocacy

BY ASHLEY CUMPSTON
STAFF WRITER

The Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DDEI) is offering students a space to talk about advocacy and prevention on college campuses.

These online events, called advoChats, discuss topics such as consent and healthy relationships. The events will be taking place online every Monday from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Maggie Von Dolteren, prevention education specialist for the DDEI, is hosting the advoChats.

Dolteren said the events provide important conversations, adding that they cover information related to the kinds of harm that might happen to a student on campus.

“Often when those activities are taken out of their conduct, or out of their proper context, it can be hard for people to see what kind of impacts they’re having on survivors,” Dolteren said.

These chats explain how to advocate for friends or other people who have experienced relationship harm, sexual assault or stalking.

“That will include things like how to give a compassionate response that avoids victim-blaming, and where to get support for yourself as a person who’s supporting some-

one going through trauma, because secondary traumatization is real,” Dolteren said.

The advoChats also offer guidance to students who are interested in working in the advocacy space as a career.

“Whatever a student wants to do in their day-to-day or their long term goals, advocacy skills can help them get there, and they can help [students] create the communities that they want to be a part of and that they truly enjoy and ones which value everyone’s right to live free from harm,” Dolteren said.

The chats are easy for students to engage and are not a large time commitment for interested students, Dolteren also said.

“I am there to teach and speak kindness and bring positivity into an environment that is often very difficult and can seem intimidating, but the chats are as light-hearted as they can be given the topics that we discussed,” Dolteren said.

For college students, Dolteren said, prevention may look like bystander intervention or assessing the roles of every member in a community. Prevention can also look like noticing what’s happening in an environment and checking on a person in a potentially harmful situation.

The advoChat presentations do not contain trigger-

West Virginia University
DIVISION OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

the advoChat
Mondays from 12:30-1:30 PM on Zoom

Join our Prevention Education Specialist, Maggie, for weekly chats about advocacy for survivors of gender-based, sexual, and power-based personal violence.

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4/24
What is Prevention?

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The advoChats take place on Mondays from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

ing imagery or audio of abuse in order to create a safe space for conversation.

“It is a shared space, as opposed to another lecture,” Dolteren said. “They’re designed to be exchanges of informa-

tion, and I think that’s very important for students to understand that they have a lot of important lived experience that we can validate.”

Students can register for the online events until April 24.

Students facing a difficult situation or who know someone facing a difficult situation can call WVU’s Equity Assurance 24/7 hotline at (304) 906-9930.

Editor:
Luke Morgan
lim00002@mix.wvu.edu

OPINION

Support student orgs this Sexual Assault Awareness Month

SUBMITTED BY JULES CONDIE

Content Warning: This article mentions sexual assault and rape, which may be triggering to some readers.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, which presents an opportunity to discuss such issues here on campus but also throughout society more broadly.

Sexual violence is an epidemic; it doesn't occur in a vacuum.

If you think about it, the goals of the anti-rape movement haven't changed since its inception in the 1970s. Yet, no real progress has been made.

For some people, pepper spray is a must-have staple on our keychains, walking at night alone is never an option and self defense classes are recommended. But why is the responsibility of combatting assault placed on the potential victim and not the perpetrator?

There is a culture surround-

ing sexual assault and harassment that shows us that this isn't just a string of isolated incidents or the result of a few "bad apples."

Sexual violence is a systemic issue rooted in and reinforced by the patriarchal social institutions we interact with every day; it's an epidemic that doesn't yet have an end in sight.

Here on campus, WVU Believe Them is doing all we can to support and uplift survivors on campus while also bringing attention to the stark reality that sexual violence is a tangible possibility for many of the students here.

According to the CDC, more than half of all women will have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. Meanwhile, according to UCLA's Williams Institute, trans people are four times more likely to experience violent victimization.

Finally, according to the American Psychological Association, 40-60% of Black women report experience with coercive sexual contact before the age of 18.



PHOTO COURTESY WVU BELIEVE THEM

Students gather for the sexual assault awareness protest in September 2021, which was a catalyst in the formation of WVU Believe Them.

Additionally, according to RAINN, one in four women will report being sexually assaulted in college, and educational institutions have a rocky

history of inaction regarding these incidents — including WVU.

Recognizing that overlapping identities such as race,

gender, and class categories further exacerbate a person's experience with sexual violence is only a reminder of how systems of oppression

and their imbalances materialize in the lives of marginalized communities both on campus and off.

The reality of sexual violence won't go away without a comprehensive reworking of policy, medical and police responses.

But in the meantime, WVU Believe Them is committed to promoting sexual health and making our presence known on campus and in our community. We will continue to be a safe space where survivors can organize with allies, friends, and peers.

As a survivor of rape myself, working and organizing with WVU Believe Them has not only helped me find a semblance of peace, but has also allowed me to reclaim the agency that was taken away from me that night.

Jules Condie (she/her) is a third-year student pursuing a double major in History and Women's and Gender Studies. She is originally from Lovettsville, Virginia, and currently organizes with WVU Believe Them as Chair of Communications.

ALBUM REVIEW | Caesar's 'NEVER ENOUGH' worth the wait

BY LUKE MORGAN
OPINION EDITOR

Starting his career in the mid 2010s, Daniel Caesar released two independent EPs entitled "Praise Break" and "Paradise Lost" in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

The success of these songs allowed Caesar to create his first studio album "Freudian" in 2017, which was when I first discovered his music. Subsequently, "Case Study 01" was released in 2019, making it his most recent project before "NEVER ENOUGH" in 2023.

Juxtaposing soul-wrenching ballads with rhythmic, electronic beats, Caesar's "NEVER ENOUGH" offers an aesthetic experience for listeners.

For example, "Disillusioned," one of the faster paced songs on the album, showcases Caesar's cynical outlook on both romantic relationships and life more broadly. A five-piece drum grounds the song and pushes it forward, as Caesar pursues mellow harmonies in his chorus.

Confronted with the fragility of human existence, Caesar then presents his romantic relationship as a remedy for despair. Critiquing the modern phenomena of situationships, the pair can combat loneliness

and experience the joys that life has to offer, but first they must be vulnerable and open to change by officially becoming a couple.

Meanwhile, "Always" takes a slower, more laid back approach to love by comparing Caesar's devotion to the inevitability of the natural world.

Fading in gradually, the gospel-influenced track gradually builds until erupting during the bridge. Here, Caesar announces his unending love for an ex-partner to the world, as he clings to the broken relationship.

Caesar got his start singing in church choirs during his childhood, and the Canadian artist often incorporates aspects of gospel into his R&B tracks — not only mirroring his own development as a musician but also tracing the historical lineage of the genre.

In the complete opposite direction, "Let Me Go" depicts Caesar's struggle to escape what he views as a toxic relationship. Right out of the gates, his full-throated pleas for freedom dominate the aural space.

The music video almost exclusively features Caesar as he runs through mountains, possibly serving as inspiration for the album art.

Switching between his fal-

setto and chest voice, Caesar masterfully navigates the highs and lows of relationships with his extensive vocal range.

My favorite song on the album, "Vince Van Gogh," paints a picture of the difficulties of life as a lonely artist. The work heavily incorporates electronic sounds to produce psychedelic waves, really standing out from the rest of the tracks.

A voice heavily distorted by autotune in the middle and end sections of the song creates a chilling and almost demonic presence, as it seemingly captures Caesar's innermost dialogue, thoughts and anxieties and then abruptly ends.

"Superpowers," the penultimate track, mimics levitation to make the audience feel as empowered as the artist's lover. The lyric video features Caesar's transcendence, as he slowly floats into the frame and moves toward heaven.

Flowing choral harmonies blend together to produce a wall of sound behind Caesar's lyrics that highlight his lover's superhuman capabilities while also minimizing his own importance. The sounds are dissonant at first and then resolve quite nicely.

Opening with jarring static,



PHOTO COURTESY REPUBLIC RECORDS

Daniel Caesar's "NEVER ENOUGH" was officially released April 7, 2023.

"Unstoppable," the final song on the album, continues this theme of power by demonstrating Caesar and his lover's invincibility.

As an artist of Jamaican and Barbadian descent, Caesar returns to his roots once again

with this Reggae-inspired track.

The song is a fitting conclusion to the stellar album, as it essentially combines the message of "Always" and "Superpowers" by focusing on the romantic pair's indomitability

and devotion to one another.

Despite the extended time needed to compile the album, the four years required to craft "NEVER ENOUGH" were well worth the wait, and I eagerly look forward to Daniel Caesar's next project.



The Daily Athenaeum is now hiring Media Consultants!

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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12
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61				62					63				
64				65						66			

- Across**

 - 1 Parent groups
 - 5 Unadaptable
 - 10 Wedding promise
 - 13 Ancient Indian
 - 15 Scent
 - 16 Copy
 - 17 Grader
 - 18 Mold
 - 19 “To the right!”
 - 20 Hear
 - 21 Dueling sword
 - 23 Completion of nine or eighteen holes
 - 25 Tigers
 - 26 Chaos
 - 28 Respiratory disorder
 - 31 Rover
 - 32 Actress Day
 - 33 Navy’s rival
 - 34 Auf Wiedersehen
 - 37 Leaky faucet noise
 - 38 __graph machine
 - 40 Natural fiber
 - 41 Gender
 - 42 Feel concern
 - 43 Puts up a picture
 - 44 Capital of Nigeria
 - 45 One stroke under par
 - 46 Early pain relieving drug
- Down**

 - 1 Depart
 - 2 Tyrant
 - 3 Lawyer (abbr.)
 - 4 Behold
 - 5 Fireproof storage areas
 - 6 Right
 - 7 Cation
 - 8 Madagascar franc (abbr.)
 - 9 From the tee to the green
 - 10 General
 - 11 Starts
 - 12 Gardner’s nemesis
 - 14 What women put on their faces
 - 22 School group
 - 24 Elderly
- 25 Short, low shot to green
 - 26 Belief
 - 27 Bullets
 - 28 Totals
 - 29 Painful
 - 30 Kid’s cereal brand
 - 31 Nominates
 - 34 Adhere
 - 35 Jellystone’s bear
 - 36 Otherwise
 - 38 Wise Man
 - 39 Metal club with blade shaped head
 - 40 Stave off
 - 42 Traveling group
 - 43 Moveable, like a door
 - 44 Liberal (abbr.)
 - 45 Container
 - 46 Cravat
 - 47 Balancer
 - 48 Mush up
 - 49 One stroke over par
 - 51 Make a sweater
 - 52 Charge
 - 53 Crazyed
 - 54 Moderate
 - 57 Affirmative
 - 58 Internal Revenue Service
 - 60 Does



Pet of the Week



PHOTO BY ALLY GOODWIN
Meet Jax. Jax is a purebred German Shepherd who just turned two-years-old. He weighs 100 pounds and is the biggest baby. Jax can sit, shake both paws, lay down, speak, whisper, high five and stand. We are working on spinning.

Submit your favorite pet photo at 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*

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

For answers, visit thedaonline.com

Players to watch in the 2023 Gold-Blue Spring Game

BY LUKE BLAIN
AND
JONATHAN HAMILTON

CO-SPORTS EDITOR AND STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia University Gold-Blue Spring Football Game is right around the corner and will give Mountaineer fans their first look at the roster for the upcoming season.

Whether they are new to the program or competing for a starting job, there are several players to look out for in this year's scrimmage.

Nicco Marchiol, Quarterback

Rising sophomore quarterback Nicco Marchiol has become a fan favorite since his commitment last offseason, and now has the opportunity to compete for the starting job.

Marchiol played in last year's spring game, finishing with 75 yards on 10-19 passing. He also finished with 26 rushing yards with one touchdown on nine attempts.

In the regular season, Marchiol finished with 61 passing yards and had a 26-yard passing touchdown against Towson.

The Chandler, Arizona native will be competing for the starting quarterback position against rising junior Garrett Greene, who started the last two games for the Mountaineers in 2022.



Quarterback Nico Marasco, 8, run the ball in the Blue and Gold Spring Game in 2022.

Jaylen Anderson, Running Back

Running back Jaylen Anderson, also a rising sophomore, will make his return to WVU after grabbing the attention of fans in his freshman campaign.

Anderson finished in 2022 with 275 yards and two touchdowns. In last year's spring game, he led all rushers with 41 yards on seven attempts

with a longest rush of 15.

While fans should watch for Anderson, the same can be said for the entire running back room. With Chad Scott's promotion from running backs coach to offensive coordinator and the returning of Tony Mathis Jr., Justin Johnson Jr. and C.J. Donaldson, the offense could be very run-heavy in 2023.

Devin Carter,

Wide Receiver

Devin Carter, a sixth-year receiver transfer from NC State will be joining the wide receiver corps for WVU this upcoming season.

Carter played five seasons at NC State, from 2018-2022, including the 2020 COVID season.

He played nine games last season, had 25 catches, 406 yards and 2 TD's, and averaged 16.2 yds per catch and 45.1 yds

per game.

Carter is very experienced in college football at the Power 5 level, and should be a reliable receiver for WVU's quarterback to throw to this upcoming season.

The Mountaineers lost two leading receivers, Bryce Ford-Wheaton to the NFL Draft and Kaden Prather to transfer portal, so Mountaineer fans should be eager to see Carter take the field this

spring.

Montre Miller, cornerback

Montre Miller, a redshirt senior transfer from Kent State, joins WVU for his sixth season in college football.

Last season, Miller played all 12 games and finished with 52 tackles, including 40 solo stops, two interceptions, eight pass breakups, a forced fumble and a fumble recovery.

He will provide some much-needed depth to a cornerback room that lost four members since last season to the transfer portal.

The 5'11", 187-pound cornerback comes to Morgantown with one year left of eligibility.

Davoan Hawkins, Defensive Lineman

Redshirt senior Davoan Hawkins transferred to WVU in January, and adds some key depth to the front seven.

He played in 11 games for Tennessee State in 2022, finishing with 16 solo tackles and 31 total.

Hawkins joins a defensive front that allowed 149.6 rushing yards per game last season. With the loss of Taij Alston, the defensive line will need other players to step up.

The game will take place on Saturday, April 22 at 1 p.m. at Milan Puskar Stadium.

Mountaineer baseball collapses against Penn State

BY RACHEL LIBERT
STAFF WRITER

In a Big 10 versus Big 12 battle, the West Virginia baseball team lost on the road to Penn State on Tuesday, falling to the Nittany Lions 6-11.

Sophomore infielder JJ Wetherholt led off the top of the first inning with a hit for the Mountaineers, doubling to left center. Junior Landon Wallace followed with a single to right field, sending Wetherholt home for the first run of the night.

After a double play and a ground out, West Virginia led Penn State 1-0.

On the mound to start the game for West Virginia was sophomore right-handed pitcher Grant Siegel. Siegel pitched 3.0 innings for the Mountaineers on the night, giving up just one hit.

The sophomore pitcher held Penn State to one hit with zero runs at the end of the first.

West Virginia picked up two more runs in the second in-

ning from three hits. Junior Braden Barry singled to first and reached home plate from an RBI by freshman Logan Sauve. Sauve then scored on a wild pitch thrown by Penn State's Ben DeMell.

The Nittany Lions could not respond at the plate as West Virginia led 3-0 at the end of the second inning.

The third inning brought another run for the Mountaineers as Wallace touched home plate on an RBI from Barry.

After a scoreless inning for Penn State, West Virginia led 4-0 with six innings to go.

In the top of the fourth inning, Sauve scored for the second time following a flyout RBI from Wallace, giving West Virginia a five-run lead. After West Virginia's at-bats, freshman Maxx Yehl took over on the mound for Siegel.

Yehl gave up one run to the Nittany Lions as they trailed the Mountaineers by four runs heading into the fifth inning.

To start the bottom of the fifth inning, freshman pitcher Gavin Van Kempen replaced

Yehl on the mound. Van Kempen allowed no hits in the fifth and reached home plate from a 5-1 lead.

Infielder Tevin Tucker earned his second hit of the day in the top of the sixth, reaching third base on a fielding error. Tucker scored on a flyout RBI to center field by Wetherholt, extending West Virginia's lead to 6-1.

The bottom of the sixth inning brought trouble for the Mountaineers as head coach Randy Mazey made his third pitching change of the game, replacing Van Kempen with sophomore Keegan Allen.

After Allen gave up a hit, hit by pitch and walk, graduate student Noah Short came to the mound.

With no outs, Short gave up a double to right field that brought in two runs for Penn State. Short was then replaced on the mound by freshman left-hander Cole Fehrman.

Fehrman gave up one run after walking his first batter. Redshirt freshman David Hagaman then replaced Feh-

rman to close the inning, but a throwing error by Hagaman on a routine single brought in three runs for the Nittany Lions.

Penn State scored seven runs in the bottom of the sixth inning, taking its first lead on West Virginia by a score of 8-6.

After a scoreless seventh inning for West Virginia, sophomore Aidan Major came from the bullpen to pitch for Hagaman. Major's first batter homered to right field, extending Penn State's lead by three runs.

Penn State went on to score two more runs in the seventh, leading the Mountaineers 11-6 with two innings to go.

West Virginia did not cross the plate at the top of the eighth. Junior pitcher Carlson Reed took over on the mound in the bottom of the eighth to close the game for West Virginia.

Despite an early lead on Penn State, West Virginia could not rally back from its five-run deficit, falling 6-11. The Mountaineers now drop

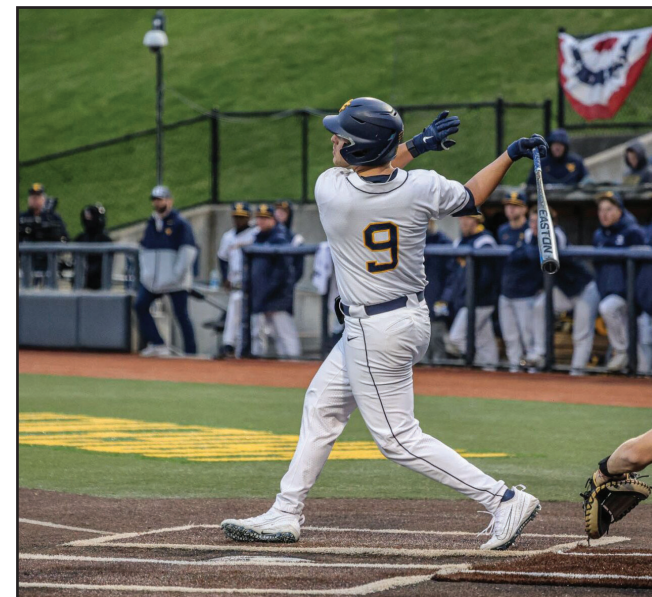


PHOTO BY MARY EVERETT

Grant Hussey, 9, watches a hit against Kansas on April 7, 2023.

to 23-10 on the season.

West Virginia now heads back to conference play in a weekend series against Oklahoma State. Game one is set for 7 p.m. on Friday, April 14 in

Stillwater, Oklahoma, and will be broadcasted on ESPN+.

WVU's JJ Wetherholt earning national attention

BY JONATHAN HAMILTON

STAFF WRITER

If you have paid any attention to West Virginia baseball this season, you have probably heard about the insanity of JJ Wetherholt's start to the 2023 season.

Wetherholt, a 20-year-old sophomore second baseman from Mars, Pennsylvania, has been at the forefront of not only WVU baseball, but Division I baseball as well.

He has been ranked as the number one second baseman in the country by D1 Baseball's rankings and is the batting average leader in the Big 12 Conference by a long shot — batting .442.

Behind him is Texas Tech's Gavin Kash, who is still hitting a very respectable .397.

"JJ's got a chance to be the best hitter I've ever coached in 35 years," WVU head coach Randy Mazey said about Wetherholt in an interview with WV News. "His balance, his timing, his ability to use the whole field, he has speed, he has power, he does everything that we teach everybody to do."

Besides batting average, Wetherholt leads West Virginia in on base percentage, on base plus slugging, RBI,

total bases, total hits, at-bats, slugging percentage, on base percentage and is second in home runs on the team with seven — only behind right fielder Caleb McNeely by one.

To say Wetherholt is having a special season is a massive understatement.

He has also had some wild single game statistics.

On March 14 of this season, Wetherholt had five hits in six at-bats, including two doubles and drove in an astonishing six runs for the Mountaineers en route to a 18-1 victory over Appalachian State. Wetherholt was responsible for driving in one third of West Virginia's runs that afternoon.

The superstar sophomore has a walkoff hit this season, with a game winning double against the Xavier Musketeers on March 24. Wetherholt's walk-off was the second in a row for the Mountaineers, as they won a game on a walk off the day before against the Hofstra Pride.

His success, however, has not only come from this season. Last year, as a freshman, he started 53 games and appeared in 54, batted .308 with 5 home runs and 33 RBI, slugged .471 and scored 51 runs, all impressive numbers for a true freshman.

Wetherholt also earned



PHOTO BY TYLER PRUSINA

Sophomore JJ Wetherholt runs the bases against Xavier at Monongalia County Ballpark on March 25, 2023.

some awards from his first season in blue and gold. He was an All-Big 12 Honorable Mention, made the Big 12 Freshman Team, the Academic All-Big 12 Rookie Team, was the Big 12 Newcomer of the Week for the week of Feb. 21, 2022,

and won WVU-Student Athlete of the Week in that same week.

Off the field, Wetherholt is majoring in finance and is academically successful, having made Dean's List and President's List, according to the

WVU baseball website.

Wetherholt's success on the field has been a major factor for the WVU baseball team. As the season continues, fans should pay attention to the sophomore second baseman.



U92 SPORTS COVERAGE

Sportspage

Wed., April 12, 8-10 p.m.

Tannor Lambert hosts the show that focuses on national sports stories, with a rotating cast of U92 personalities joining them each week.

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Track and Field competes at Dalton Ebanks Invitational

BY MATT ROSS

STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia University track and field team was back in action at the Dalton Ebanks Invitational at George Mason University on Saturday, April 8.

"This was the first meet of the year for some in the program," head coach Sean Cleary said. "Each week we will see new faces back in uniform."

The Sydney, Australia native Tessa Constantine participated in the 400-meter hurdles where she set a personal best for this season.

Constantine finished the race with a time of 59.99 to earn second place overall in the race.

Alongside Constantine was teammate Macey Crawford who finished in 18th place with a time of 1:09.68.

Sophomore Cassandra Williamson had an outstanding race in the women's 800 meter with a time of 2:08.84. Williamson's time earned her a spot on the podium with a second place finish.

Right behind Williamson was fellow teammate Hay-



PHOTO COURTESY WVU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

Sophomore Cassandra Williamson competes in a race.

ley Jackson. Jackson finished in fourth place with a time of 2:10.40.

Senior Sada Wright also had a successful performance in the discus throw. Wright's best throw was 44.20 meters, now the fourth best throw in program history.

Olivia Cress, a freshman, competed in the 100-meter sprint and the 200-meter dash. She finished with a 12.55

time in the 100-meter and crossed the finish line in 25.95 in the 200-meter, her personal record.

Sophomore Ghamani Hogue placed ninth in the 100 meter hurdles with a time of 15.56.

The Mountaineers will compete again on April 13-15 in the Bryan Clay Invitational in Azusa, California.

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‘I think this place is so special’: Mark Kellogg speaks on coming to WVU

BY LUKE BLAIN
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

Newly-named West Virginia University women’s basketball head coach Mark Kellogg and Athletic Director Wren Baker spoke to the media on Wednesday, just two days after the announcement of Kellogg’s hiring.

Kellogg expressed how excited he was to be the new women’s head basketball coach, as well as how confident he is in his decision.

“The question I’ve gotten several times already is, ‘Why WVU? Why West Virginia,’” Kellogg said in his opening statement. “My initial quick thought is, why not? ... I think this place is so special.”

Kellogg comes to Morgantown having spent the last eight years as the women’s basketball head coach at Stephen F. Austin, racking up a record of 195-55 as the Lady-

jacks’ head coach. He has a career record of 445-120 with the sixth most wins of any active Division I women’s basketball head coach.

His success has drawn attention from several schools over the years, but he thought West Virginia was the best fit.

“This one was too good to pass up,” Kellogg said.

Kellogg’s hire makes him the third coach of the Mountaineers in the past three seasons. With the lack of continuity for the team as of late, Kellogg had a message for his current players and the fans as well.

“Give us a chance,” Kellogg said. “We’re gonna do the same thing we’ve always done, and I’m not gonna be any different than I am.”

In terms of style of play, Kellogg said he wants to keep teams “off-balance” with different types of defense. He believes WVU’s roster can handle his style and adapt to it.

“I watched this group play quite a bit. I actually think it will be a pretty easy transition for this group,” Kellogg said. “There’s some athleticism in this group. There’s some length in this group, and those are two things that we want.”

Overall, Kellogg said he is up for the challenge, but has high expectations for his players.

“We’re gonna have fun along the way, but we’re gonna get better,” Kellogg said. “We’re gonna ask a lot of them.”

Baker opened the press conference with a statement of his own. He discussed the interview process, as well as commended Kellogg.

“During the interview process, it was clear that he understood our program, how to be successful at WVU,” Baker said. “And most importantly, was eager to embrace becoming a West Virginian.”



PHOTO BY LUKE BLAIN

Athletic Director Wren Baker and women’s head coach Mark Kellogg speak to the media on April 5, 2023.

STUDENT HEALTH

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Kedrian Johnson puts name in 2023 NBA Draft

BY LUKE BLAIN
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

Former WVU guard Kedrian Johnson has entered his name in the 2023 NBA Draft.

The fifth-year senior announced his decision Monday on Twitter, thanking his teammates and fans for their support during his stint at West Virginia.

“To Mountaineer Nation, I want to thank you guys for the unconditional love and support these past 3 years,” Johnson wrote. “You will forever be a part of me.”

He spent the past three years on Huggins’ roster, first earning a starting role in the 2021-22 season.

Last season, Johnson started every game he played, averaging 11.7 points per game. He was tied for second on the team with senior forward Tre Mitchell.

Johnson also led the team in assists with 102 and in free throw percentage, shooting 82.8% on the year.

As a fifth-year senior last season, Johnson has no more NCAA eligibility left.



PHOTO BY LUKE BLAIN

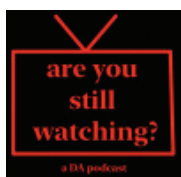
Fifth-year senior guard Kedrian Johnson sets up a play against Texas Tech in the Phillips 66 Big 12 Men’s Basketball Tournament.

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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.



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.



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.

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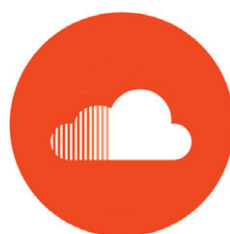
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