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Campus carry bill heads to House

Higher education leaders urge lawmakers to protect university provisions

BY TRENTON STRAIGHT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

West Virginia lawmakers are moving a bill that would allow concealed carry on college and university campuses, even though higher education leaders have opposed the legislation.

The Republican-dominated Senate overwhelmingly passed the bill last week, sending it to the House for further consideration.

The bill now sits with the House Judiciary Committee and would require full passage in the House and the Governor's signature to become a law.

Proponents of the bill argue that concealed weapons are a constitutional right and provide self-defense on campus, while those opposed say it would only exacerbate safety and mental health risks facing students.

Here's what you need to know about the Campus Self-Defense Act.

What is the Campus Self-Defense Act?

SB 10, or the "Campus Self-Defense Act," would allow people with concealed carry permits to bring weapons in numerous areas on public college or university campuses.

The bill would allow institutions of higher education to regulate concealed weapons in some areas on campus, such as stadiums with more than 1,000 spectators — like Milan Puskar Stadium — and campus mental health facilities.

However, concealed weapons would be allowed in classrooms and lecture halls.

Colleges and universities could prohibit firearms in residence halls, except for common spaces like lounges, dining halls and study areas. Those institutions would be required to provide either a secure storage location in at least one campus residence hall or make individual safes available in dorm rooms.

If a college chooses to regulate firearms in these areas, its governing board would be required to implement "adequate safety measures" by state law. This could include armed personnel at entrances and electronic equipment like metal detectors or wands.

Rob Alsop, WVU's Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, told lawmakers in January that the University has no current plans to update security on campus, including wandering spectators at university athletic events.

"We have not made the decision that we would want that at every single athletic event moving forward," Alsop said. "It would be an overall security decision moving forward."

Under the current state law, if an unauthorized person brings a firearm onto campus property, WVU is permitted to ask them to leave. If they refuse, the person could be charged



PHOTO COURTESY WV LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY WILL PRICE

See **Bill** page 4

The West Virginia Senate passes SB 10, the Campus Self-Defense Act, on Jan. 24, 2023.

New chicken restaurant coming to High Street this spring

BY JULES OGDEN
NEWS EDITOR

Morgantown is getting some southern hospitality this spring with a new chicken finger restaurant moving in downtown.

Layne's Chicken Fingers, a Texas-based restaurant, has plans to open next to Chipotle on High Street in late spring this year, according to company officials.

The Morgantown location will be the first of almost 100 restaurants to open outside of Texas over

the next few years as part of an effort to expand the business under 3E Franchise.

Jessica Wilson, director of operations at 3E Franchise, said that franchising Layne's was a good fit for the brand when looking to expand outside of Texas.

"It's a great product that was well-thought-out that has such a great reputation," Wilson said.

Layne's Chicken was started in 1994 by Mike Layne with the goal of supporting his community. Now, nearly 30 years later, Layne's dream is expanding north.

Wilson said that the Morgantown

location is set to continue this mission by hosting fundraising event nights and embracing the University's culture.

"It's all going to be about that 'mountaineer spirit' and what you guys are and why we're in Morgantown and how appreciative we are to be there," Wilson said, adding that the restaurant will be decorated in blue and gold.

The restaurant's menu is simple, serving chicken fingers, sandwiches, crinkle-cut fries and potato salad among a few other things.

Wilson said the restaurant has already begun its hiring process and

is looking to hire residents and local students. Those interested in applying should email careers@3efranchise.com or info@3efranchise.com.

She added that the restaurant's hours of operation allow for them to be flexible with students' schedules during the semester.

"I've been down there a couple of times now, at the site, and just, you know, kind of doing my little visits, and I remember being a young teenager and going and hanging out and everything was open late. You could go anywhere and I was surprised at how that's not an option anymore, so yes, we're gonna bring some of that

late night back," Wilson said.

Currently, the restaurant is set to be open 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11-1 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, according to Wilson.

"We're excited to kind of join the Mountaineer family and be involved in the community as much as possible," she said.

The project began as a collaboration between Erik Mansmann, former director of operations of 3e, and Henry Wang, principal of TMD Holdings. However, Mansmann has since left the project.



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FRIDAY 2/03
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CRIME REPORT

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- | | |
|--|---|
| Jan. 28
10:46 P.M. Investigating
Brooke Tower
Harassment. | WVU Short Term 5
Drug Incident. |
| Jan. 28
9:31 P.M. Resolved
College Park
Argument. | Jan. 29
11:59 A.M. Resolved
Mountainlair.
Suspicious Person. |
| Jan. 28
10:15 P.M. Lack of Leads
Summit Hall
Drug Incident. | Jan. 29
2:50 P.M. Lack of Leads
Mountainlair
Suspicious Event. |
| Jan. 28
10:48 P.M. Warning
University Ave.
ABCC Violation. | Jan. 29
9:56 P.M. Resolved
Vandalia Hall Gold.
Found Property. |
| Jan. 28
11:12 P.M. Resolved | Jan. 29
10:48 P.M. Resolved
Summit Hall
Vehicle Accident. |

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back to back ranked wins would do
wonders for my mental health

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WVU's INDEPENDENT
STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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‘Full-court press on breastfeeding promotion’: University opens new nursing pod at Coliseum

BY LARA BONATESTA
CULTURE EDITOR

When WVU social work professor and director of the Women’s Resource Center Leslie Tower returned to work after having her second child in 2006, she struggled to find a place to pump breast milk on campus.

“When you have a young baby ... and you want to continue nursing once returning to, in my case work, you have to pump very frequently because babies eat frequently when they’re really small,” Tower said.

At the time, she taught on Evansdale but had an office downtown, making it nearly impossible to make it back to her office each time she needed to pump.

“I found myself having to pump in bathrooms on toilets,” Tower said.

Prior to the Affordable Care Act in 2010, employers were not required to provide private non-bathroom lactation spaces. So, Tower took matters into her own hands.

“I don’t know that everybody understands the physical need that it is to have to express milk every increment of time,” she said. “It’s not just that it could cause disease, it could also make you dry up and so then you won’t have what you need for baby when you return.”

She approached the Council for Women’s Concerns, now the Council for Gender Equity, and created an informal network of WVU employees who would allow nursing faculty, staff or students to use their offices to express milk. This informal group was dubbed the “Lactation Network.”

In the following years, Tower continued to fight for

more lactation spaces on campus. In 2012 she spearheaded the launch of the WVU Lactation Program which set a goal for the University to build a dedicated lactation space in each newly built or renovated campus building.

With the opening of the new nursing pod located along the main concourse at the Coliseum’s Mountaineer Gate, the now formal network consists of 12 dedicated lactation spaces across campus.

Tower said she got the idea for the pod after some sports fans requested a lactation room in the Coliseum and Milan Puskar Stadium.

“People still reached out to me and said, ‘Hey, where can I go pump on game day?’” Tower said. “And so that’s why I started essentially advocating for a nursing pod.”

The pod, which is powered by Mamava, is the first of its kind to be placed in West Virginia. Tower says the pod will be moved to Milan Puskar Stadium during football season and remain at the Coliseum for the rest of the year.

Parents who want to use the pod can download the Mamava app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. The app alerts users whether or not the space is occupied and allows them to type in a code to enter.

Visitors without access to a smartphone can also access the lactation space by calling the Coliseum Help desk (304) 293-FANS on game days and 304-293-HELP at all other times.

Mamava keeps track of the number of people who use the pod, when they use it and for how long. In the future, Tower hopes to use this data to determine the need for purchasing a second pod, which would allow one pod to be at the Coliseum and the other at the sta-



PHOTO COURTESY WVU WOMEN’S RESOURCE CENTER

The WVU Nursing pod is located along the main concourse at the Coliseum’s Mountaineer Gate.

dium permanently.

According to Tower, the cost of the pod at the Coliseum was about \$25,000. She said this pod is the larger of Mamava’s pods because it is ADA accessible.

Tower added that the nursing pod and other WVU lactation spaces are not the only spaces where nursing parents can express milk.

“I worry that people will think that this pod is the only place that one can nurse baby and that is not true. One can nurse baby anywhere they’re both allowed to be and it is not indecent exposure,” Tower said.

“I don’t want anyone to ever feel that they have to go hide to nurse [a] baby.”

This message is one that Heather O’Neal, a certified nurse midwife, board-certified lactation consultant and WVU nursing professor who runs a private breastfeeding clinic in Morgantown, is passionate about. O’Neal suggested that signage be posted outside the pod informing visitors that while the pod is available, they can nurse any-

where in the Coliseum.

“The pod is not meant to shame you out of nursing your baby in public, but to offer an alternative space if it’s needed for you,” O’Neal said.

O’Neal said the addition of a pod is both a step in the right direction and a symbol that WVU considers breastfeeding important work.

“Now, because we have this nursing pod, we have die-hard Mountaineer basketball fans, that maybe plan to have children someday and seeing this nursing pod and knowing that they’re welcome to come and they’re encouraged to feed their babies with their bodies. So it’s more than just a place. It’s actually a symbol. And I think that’s really, really important.”

This addition comes at an important time, O’Neal said, due to the isolation and challenges experienced by lactating parents during the pandemic and the ongoing national baby formula shortage.

“We honestly do need a full-court press on breastfeeding promotion in general, but especially in lieu of the formula



PHOTO COURTESY WVU WOMEN’S RESOURCE CENTER

Visitors can access the nursing pod by downloading the Mamava app.

shortage, and I am so glad WVU is taking this seriously,” O’Neal said.

O’Neal encourages the University to continue doing this work and urged them to promote the pod and other lactation resources.

“I think I would just challenge the University to not stop at a nursing pod, you know? Like the pod is great. But let’s help people understand how to use it. Let’s really put up the signage. Let’s be talking about it,” she said.

Moving forward, Tower plans to continue to push for more lactation spaces on campus.

“It would be my goal to have a room in every building on campus, and that’s the direction we’re moving in. Albeit slowly,” Tower said.

For more information about the Nursing pod or the Lactation Network, visit the Women’s Resource Center website and to reach O’Neal, visit breastfeedingforbusymoms.com.

Statler College ranked in top 100 engineering programs nationwide

BY JULES OGDEN
NEWS EDITOR

WVU’s engineering programs are being recognized on a national level.

The National Science Foundation recently ranked the University’s engineering school among the top 100 programs of its kind in its annual Higher Education Research and Development survey for the 2021 fiscal year.

The Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and

Mineral Resources was ranked 94th among 413 institutions across the nation, classifying it as part of the top 23% of engineering programs in the country in research expenditures.

Seven of the college’s disciplines ranked in the top 100 as well, including mechanical engineering (41), industrial engineering (39), chemical engineering (39), materials science (69), civil engineering (97), aerospace engineering (84) and other engineering (73).

According to a Univer-

sity press release, Statler’s research spending accounted for 22% of total research expenditures at the University in 2021, totaling around \$42.4 million.

This ranking was part of the NSF’s latest Higher Education Research and Development Survey, a report that offers information on research and development expenditures at colleges and universities across the nation and serves as an annual census of institutions that spent a minimum of \$150,000 in separately ac-

counted for research and development efforts during the fiscal year, according to the survey’s description.

All eligible universities and colleges are surveyed.

The survey examines a number of variables, including but not limited to research and development expenditures by field and source of funds, headcounts and full-time equivalents of research and development personnel functions, institutional characteristics and expenditures by type of research and development.

“It is very exciting to see our research portfolio growing and diversifying,” said Pedro Mago, Glen H. Hiner Dean of the Statler College, in a press release. “Our outstanding and talented faculty, researchers, and students are developing new technologies, solving problems that benefit humanity today, and creating a prosperous future. I am extremely proud of all the exceptional work of our faculty, staff and students, and I am confident that with their hard work and dedication, the research

profile of our college will continue to move to new levels of excellence.”

Other programs at WVU ranked among the top 100 in their categories, including but not limited to agricultural science and natural resources and conservation (47), health sciences (82) and physics (93).

According to the University, the NSF R&D survey plays a role in whether an institution is classified as R1 or not, a title that WVU currently holds.

As WVU students face a mental health crisis, lawmakers want to legalize guns on campus

BY IAN KARBAL

MOUNTAIN STATE SPOTLIGHT

Editor's Note: This story was originally published by Mountain State Spotlight. Get stories like this delivered to your email inbox once a week; sign up for the free newsletter at <https://mountainstatespotlight.org/newsletter>.

Last May, lawmakers gathered in Morgantown for scheduled interim committee meetings on West Virginia University's campus.

Logan Riffe, now a senior at WVU, was keen to meet with them to discuss students' increased need for mental health services. Students had been struggling — both before and in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic — and the year before, three WVU students had killed themselves.

"[Lawmakers] were very open to hearing our ideas," Riffe said. "They showed us that they cared about this issue that we brought to them."

But he said he's seen no follow-up since then.

Despite the interim meetings, where lawmakers were

told by the director of WVU's on-campus counseling center of disturbing increases in reported suicide attempts and suicide threats, bills to require state universities to study the efficacy of their mental health care programs haven't moved.

And now, lawmakers are advancing another bill that some say will make the problem even worse: allowing concealed carry weapons in many areas of the state's public colleges and universities.

"As a psychologist, as the director of the counseling center, and as a parent, I'm horrified," said Dr. T. Anne Hawkins, director of the Carruth Center for Counseling and Psychological Services. "I really believe that when we have students who have depression, students who have anxiety, I'm not sure that increasing their access to weapons is wise. What we know is that having guns on campus increases the risk of gun violence on our campus."

Calls for mental health legislation fall on deaf ears

Last January, Riffe felt momentum going into the legislative session. He was advocating for a bill that would have



Students walking in front of the Mountainlair on January 17, 2023

PHOTO BY EMILY KENNEL

pushed universities to study the efficacy of their mental health care programs, develop more comprehensive care access plans and have the Higher Education Policy Commission come up with a funding plan. It was ultimately introduced by House Speaker Roger Han-

shaw, R-Clay, and House Minority Leader Doug Skaff, D-Kanawha.

But in spite of having both the Republican and Democratic leaders on board, the bill never came up before a committee. A concurring resolution asking a leg-

islative interim committee to study many of the same issues passed the House, but died in the Senate.

But still, the momentum continued. In May, lawmakers dedicated an interim meeting to the subject. During that meeting, Hawkins told the in-

terim Joint Standing Committee on Education that in the 2021-2022 school year at WVU, the number of reported suicide attempts, the number of welfare checks on students of concern were all double what they had been right before COVID.

She asked lawmakers to fund more counselors, including in grades K-12, to better prepare students for life after high school. She asked for a major study of the efficacy of various mental health programs, and how to implement them in West Virginia, as well as attention to filling mental health care vacancies in areas that lack the services around the state.

"That's the million dollar question," Hawkins said in response to a question about what legislation might be required. "We've gotta have clinicians, we've gotta look at the national data, and we've gotta come up with something that's better than simply 50-minute hours. It has to be broader."

Read the full story at mountainstatespotlight.org.

Bill

Continued from page 1

with a misdemeanor.

If passed, West Virginia would join 11 other states — Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Mississippi, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin — in allowing concealed firearms on public college or university campuses in some form.

Tennessee, for example, allows faculty members to carry concealed weapons but not students and the general public.

In seven of the 11 campus carry states, the governing boards of colleges and universities are authorized to choose where concealed weapons can be restricted on campus.

State higher education leaders speak out

As campus carry moved through the West Virginia Senate last month, the state's two largest universities publicly opposed the legislation.

WVU President Gordon Gee and Marshall University President Brad Smith have now issued two joint letters to lawmakers addressing concerns about campus carry. They argue that decisions over concealed weapons on campus should be left to the governing boards of public universities.

"Whether it is mental health challenges facing some students, discussion about grades, recruitment of new students and faculty, or the protection of open and honest debate of ideas, we are concerned about inserting firearms into these types of situations," Gee and Smith wrote in a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

WVU's Faculty Senate also opposed the bill in a resolution addressing similar concerns over campus carry.

After the bill's quick passage in the Senate last month, Gee and Smith sent a second letter to the House Judiciary Committee asking its members to keep provisions for colleges and universities.

"While we do not support statewide campus carry, we do appreciate the Senate retaining best practices and safeguards from other states in the bill," they wrote. "We hope the House of Delegates will keep these provisions intact as it considers the legislation. The provisions are critical to the safety of our university communities."

Since then, presidents of West Virginia State University and Concord University have also shared a joint letter opposing the bill, according to the Associated Press.

Firearms on campus have been a concern for higher education leaders for years, as

state lawmakers have routinely pushed for campus carry bills in past legislative sessions.

SB 10 is virtually identical to a campus carry bill introduced in 2019, which led to a protest by faculty and students at WVU. Gee issued a similar letter to lawmakers that year opposing campus carry and saying "deadly weapons have no place on [college campuses]."

SGA overwhelmingly opposes campus carry

The WVU Student Government Association has also shared opposition to the bill that would allow concealed firearms on campus.

Last month, the legislative body overwhelmingly passed a proclamation in opposition to campus carry, arguing the bill would "end longstanding prohibitions on the carrying of firearms."

Like Gee and Smith, SGA said it supports institutional control over decisions about firearms on campus.

A majority of SGA's legislative body spoke out against the bill, citing specific concerns over mental health and potential effects on student enrollment and faculty recruitment.

"It is going to significantly impact people's decisions on whether or not they want to come to school here," College Sen. Jillian Blair said. "I mean, I've lived here my whole life. I think I have heard more times



PHOTO BY TRENTON STRAIGHT

SGA Attorney General Charlie Long (left), Student Body Vice President Pareera Uqaily and Executive Secretary Morgan Donate discuss a proclamation opposing the Campus Self-Defense Act with senators in a regular meeting on Jan. 18, 2023.

than I ever want to hear again that young people are leaving the state."

Two SGA senators spoke in favor of SB 10, arguing it's an opportunity to educate students about firearm safety.

College Sen. Tommy Azinger and Sen. Christian Miller, who voted against SGA's proclamation, shared a joint letter with state lawmakers supporting conceal carry

on campus.

"We fully support SB 10 and urge the legislators in Charleston to pass this piece of legislation," Azinger and Miller wrote. "Many students at West Virginia University support the measure and believe the freedom to exercise our Second Amendment rights is vital — even on college campuses."

The letter references an SGA survey that found 49% of the

students who responded supported campus carry. However, only a couple hundred students took the survey, according to President Pro Tempore Azeem Khan.

SGA's approved proclamation was sent to WVU administrators and state leaders, including Gov. Jim Justice, State Senate President Craig Blair and House Speaker Roger Handshaw.

Student group gets to the root of soil science

BY ANNA GOLDIZEN
CORRESPONDENT

Founded in 1967, the WVU Soils Team is a group of undergraduate students who compete in intercollegiate soil judging. Made up of less than a dozen members, the team is led by head coach James Thompson and assistant coach Sarah Higgins.

While the idea of it may seem self-explanatory, many do not know the true definition of soil judging and how it works.

Thompson, a WVU professor of soil science, says that soil judging involves more assessing and observing than judging and that there are specific criteria that constitute how team members classify the soil.

"The students are taken to a number of exposures of the soil profile, a vertical cut of the soil. A pit if you will," Thompson said. "The students describe what they see, the different layers and the characteristics of those layers, the color, the texture, the structure."

Along with evaluating the soil's characteristics, soil judging also involves classifying the landscape that the soil is located on and determining how different buildings and structures would react to the soil, such as basements.

The team meets each Friday to prepare for competition in the Southeast Regional Soils Contest, an annual soil judging competition hosting different collegiate soils teams from throughout the region.

At the competition, the teams are each given three days on site to practice and become acclimated with the location's soil samples. On the fourth day, the competition begins.

Soils Team members are tasked with assessing soil profiles and recording their findings onto a chart, which serves as the score sheet. The goal is to have a score sheet that most closely resembles one that has been filled out by a professional soil scientist or professor.

From the regional level, the top six teams are chosen to move on to the national competition. WVU's team placed seventh at the regional competition last fall, narrowly missing the opportunity to compete at the national level.



PHOTO COURTESY JAMES A. THOMPSON

The WVU Soils Team works together to identify the horizons while describing the soil exposed in a pit during a practice session prior to the 2022 Southeast Regional Collegiate Soils Contest.

This was the first time the team did not qualify since 2006. Despite this, the team remains hopeful for the future, as they are planning on attending an open contest in California this spring.

The Soils Team is especially unique because it allows participants to be immersed in a completely hands-on experience that is nearly impossible to replicate inside a classroom.

"Soil judging is soil science immersion," Thompson said. "The students look at, describe, interpret soils, and they are able to learn so much more than just meeting once a week for a couple hours and maybe looking at some pictures."

The Soils Team also prepares its members for careers in soil and environmental science. Higgins, a former collegiate soil team member and current graduate student, says that members of the team often are provided with the tools they need to excel in a career in the field.

"I know a lot of people who have graduated from the team have gotten jobs as soil scientists for the government, like with the National Resource Conservation Service, or have gone on to graduate school like I did," Higgins says. "Other ones have become teachers, so it definitely opens up a lot of opportunities."

JosiLee Scott, an environmental microbiology major, has loved competing with her team and getting to know other students who share a



PHOTO COURTESY JAMES A. THOMPSON

The WVU Soils Team: (L to R) Sarah Higgins, JosiLee Scott, Abigail Clark, Alex Lawson, Emily Marsteller, Abigail Clegg, Emma Jahns, Michael Fiala.



PHOTO COURTESY JAMES A. THOMPSON

WVU Soils Team member Abigail Clegg determines the color of a soil sample by comparing it to standard color charts while completing her soil profile description during the 2022 Southeast Regional Collegiate Soils Contest.

passion for soil science.

"You're spending eight hours a day in the fields, communicating with everyone. And Dr. Thompson does a really good job of making it really friendly," Scott said. "Everyone on the team is really

awesome."

To get involved in the WVU Soils Team, one can either register for the course, Agronomy 125, or contact the team's coaches at James.Thompson@mail.wvu.edu or sjh00024@mix.wvu.edu.

Three things to do in Morgantown this weekend

BY DREW JONES
CORRESPONDENT

2 Letters from Home Tour

There are a lot of entertainment options in Morgantown this weekend. After the stress of the first exams of the semester, students who want to relax and step away from campus for a while may consider the following events.

This week, The Daily Athenaeum recommends a concert, a comedy tour and a friendly game of bingo.

1 The Stews at 123 Pleasant Street

The Stews will be performing with Cranberry Station and Mother of Earl at 123 Pleasant Street this Saturday. Doors will be opening at 7 p.m. with music starting at 8 p.m. The cost of admission is \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. For more information, visit their website at 123pleasantsstreet.com.

3 Bingo with Larry

For those in a competitive mood, AntiquiTea House is hosting their monthly Bingo with Larry this Friday. There is no admission fee and the winner of each round will receive a baked good. The final round cover-all winner will receive a \$5 gift card. For more information, visit the AntiquiTea House website.

Tracks of the week

BY GRIFFIN "DANGER" MCMORROW

boygenius - "\$20"

The first of three boygenius teasers released last week includes a few things new to the group, electric guitars, fast tempo and an unconventional time signature.

The vibes are still more indie than punk but the sound is far from the gentle, acoustic cuts the supergroup (Phoebe Bridgers, Lucy Dacus and Julien Baker) brought forth on their 2018 debut.

Lines are yelped and voices overlap before building to a final crescendo as Bridgers delivers the titular line and the riff fades to nothing.

"\$20" shows the band is ready for evolution without sacrificing the spirit which made the act noteworthy in the first place.

Lil Yachty - "the ride"

Last Friday Atlanta-based rapper stunned with the release of his album "Let's Start Here." The record imitates 70's funk and psychedelia, includes

hazy, lo-fi and borderline experimental instrumentation.

With assistance from Patrick Wiberly of Chairlift and superproducer Justin Raisen, Yachty pushes these genres.

Tim Hecker - "Lotus Light"

Acclaimed Canadian composer and sound artist Tim Hecker announced an upcoming LP this week. The rollout was spearheaded with "Lotus Light," which features foreboding, ambient music with glimmers brightness and beauty.

The track marks his first original composition since his release of "Anoyo" in 2019 and prefaces the wide release of his soundtrack in Brandon Cronenberg's latest film "Infinity Pool."



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OPINION

All people deserve access to higher education

OP-ED SUBMITTED BY CARRIE,
EMILY AND ROBERT

Editor's note: This article was collaboratively written by WVU/Waynesburg University Associate degree students and WVU participants of the Fall 2022 Inside Out course. Due to confidentiality, the last names of all students have been withheld in the writing of this article.

All people deserve access to higher education.

At West Virginia University, the Higher Education in Prison Initiative (HEPI) strives to make this ideal a reality through programs that “create space for intellectual and personal growth” by offering accessible higher education to one of the most under-resourced populations — people who are incarcerated.

Through a partnership between Waynesburg University and WVU, HEPI classes, like the current courses offered at Pennsylvania state prison, SCI-Greene, “generate direction, hope, and purpose for everyone involved.”

HEPI is creating an environment where both inside (incarcerated) students and outside (WVU, main campus) students have access to this type of education.

The first HEPI class offered in the Fall of 2022 used the Inside-Out model. Half the class was composed of incarcerated students pursuing associate degrees through Waynesburg University and the other half consisted of WVU ‘outside’ undergraduate students.

Facilitated by WVU professor Katy Ryan, founder of the Appalachian Prison Book

Project, the class gathered at SCI-Greene for three hours each week to discuss readings, written assignments and present group projects.

Inside and outside students met the same course requirements, fostering a unique learning community. This first cohort of associate degree students is working alongside Ryan to create an SCI-Greene Advisory Council and shape HEPI’s goals for equitable access to higher education.

HEPI looks forward to offering more classes on the inside in the coming years, according to Ryan. Up next: Professor DiBartolomeo’s class, *Vampires: Blood and Revolution*.

The program builds on studies that demonstrate the benefits of postsecondary education among incarcerated students. According to a study conducted by RAND, people enrolled in correctional education programs lowered their odds of recidivism by 43%.

Further, college enrollment among prison populations is on the rise.

An annual report from the Alliance for Higher Education in Prison, including data from 372 higher education prison programs, indicated a 23.1% increase in programs from 2018-2019. This uptick amounted to 33,717 incarcerated students enrolled in post-secondary education.

But higher education in prison equates to much more than reducing recidivism (and thus costs) — it has transformational effects on people serving lengthy sentences on the inside.

One Indiana-based study demonstrated that people enrolled in college classes de-



PHOTO COURTESY RAYMOND THOMPSON JR.
Gabriella Pishotti, an Appalachian Prison Book Project volunteer, leafs through books at the APBP office in Morgantown, West Virginia, on Oct. 11, 2018.

constructed racial and ethnic barriers that cause tension and violence. Enrolled students committed 75% fewer infractions than their unenrolled incarcerated peers, enhanced their self-esteem and improved relations between class members and prison staff.

On the whole, data proves that a more equitable, compassionate world is created when all people have access to higher education.

Perhaps the most convincing argument for higher education inside prisons is articulated by people who have experienced it first-hand. Robert,

one inside student, describes his first HEPI course as follows:

Fifteen people walk into a room, hearts racing, not knowing what to expect. As we glance around the room we see a circle of outside students, they look as nervous as we are.

We share unsure smiles around with a multitude of questions flowing in everybody’s minds. Ryan takes over with a short introduction and then it’s off to an exercise called the Wagon Wheel. We’re seated in circles, face-to-face, and asked questions designed to familiarize and

humanize while breaking down obstacles and preconceived stigmas so we can relax and relate to each other.

It’s nothing short of an amazing and fun process! Before we know it, learning starts with profound subjects that invoke a range of emotions. The ideas, views and even beliefs flow freely. The bars and invented differences between us melt away as we begin to relate and understand one another.

We all came into this class having drawn unfounded conclusions. Phil was concerned about “preconceived notions.” Craig thought it would

be “clinical and dull.” Carl Lee thought it would “be some reading of books with a little writing.” It turned out to be anything but.

Craig put it best: “It was very interactive, analytical, and a wonderful experience.”

Every book we read was deeply rooted in social injustice and brought forth timeless issues that we tend to ignore as if out of sight out of mind, like a magical spell.

As Robert mentioned, and a sentiment that students all inside and out shared, “A greater gift could never be given and I receive it with an inexpressible gratitude.”

In our society we create boxes and we systematically put everybody in them. We students, of course, use boxes as well. As it turned out, ours quickly opened up!

The consensus seems to be that this class taught us how to work with people, how to better manage our time, how to communicate on issues with those outside of our race and age group, how to analyze and write a play and express ourselves through performance, and how to use critical thinking to better oneself and help others.

But, most importantly, it teaches that we are all something, somebody, that we are all people, and together we can do anything. Education is the keystone to humanity and through WVU HEPI and the partnership with Waynesburg and SCI-Greene, students on the inside and out are able to learn from one another and experience the profound power of learning in the community.

FOOD REVIEW | Momo’s fuses groceries and fast food

BY MADELINE HARRIS
FOOD CRITIC

If there is one thing a college student loves, it’s the ability to pick up good food in a quick and efficient manner. Luckily for those on the Morgantown campus, a new store has opened downtown catering to such needs.

Momo’s Snacks, which opened just a few weeks ago, is located on High St. and offers students another grocery option within walking distance of campus. This is an excellent location for people who are out late and looking for fresh food.

The fast-food restaurant doubles as a convenience store, with the restaurant located in the basement.

My friends and I traveled to Momo’s over the weekend, knowing nothing about the new restaurant.

When we entered the store, I was initially shocked and thought I was in the wrong place. Upon entering you are met with rows of isles, filled with anything you could possibly imagine.

From baby lotion to children’s toys to grocery items, the convenience store is filled with great finds for everyone.

Personally, I have never seen a convenience store that

doubles as a restaurant, and this is much more than your average Sheetz.

I walked out with a jumbo box of Cosmic Brownies, so I would call that a win.

We eventually made our way to the restaurant window, which was located at the back of the store, straight back from the door. They serve smoothies, falafels, gyros and much more.

These menu choices are awesome because they are difficult to find at other restaurants in Morgantown.

Other popular items include baklava, chicken wings with a choice of sauce and chicken shawarma. All of the

items listed on the menu are under \$15, which is music to the ears of wallets everywhere.

When it came time to order, I decided upon the loaded fries under the “Mezza” section of the menu, which I just found out is a term for a type of Middle Eastern cuisine.

Mezza is usually translated as appetizer or starter, aligning perfectly with Momo’s emphasis on “snacks.” Since we were the only ones in line, it only took about five minutes before I was enjoying my meal.

Loaded fries are one of my favorite menu items, so when a place makes good fries, I consider them to be reputable. Momo’s passed the test in

my book.

The fries were just what I was looking for. They oozed with cheese and bacon bits, and every bite was heaven.

The menu is so vast that there is something for everyone to enjoy, and I am excited to try more items from the menu. I am very fond of restaurants that are open late; they are appealing to the life of a college student and convenient for nights out.

Whether you are craving a sweet treat, a hot cooked meal or need to do some grocery shopping, I would highly recommend giving Momo’s a visit—you will not be disappointed.

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CROSSWORD

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- Across**

1 Goes ___ (without a date)

5 Masculine

10 Chances of winning

14 Bee’s home

15 Colder

16 Patronize

17 Similar

18 Gaze

19 Cleanse

20 Inject (3 wds.)

22 Arose

23 Perch

24 San Diego attraction

26 Music

27 Movie 2001’s talking computer

30 Department (abbr.)

33 Curtsy

35 Id’s counterparts

37 Persons who hold the highest elected office

42 Spice

43 Anger

44 Air (prefix)

45 Formulates instructions

49 U.S. Air Force

50 Possessive pronoun

51 Haze
- 53 Resort hotel

54 Boat

57 Wager

59 Change color

61 Sweet confection

63 Made ideal

69 Belief

70 Display affection in an enticing manner

71 Juno

72 Lite

73 Spooky

74 Take the wrinkles out

75 Only

76 Painter Richard

77 Mislay
- 21 Rescue

22 Cedar

25 Kimono sash

27 Rope fiber

28 Seaweed substance

29 South of the border crazy

31 Reserved

32 What is agreed upon

34 Suitor or sweetheart

36 Sego lily’s bulb

38 Appear

39 Loch ___ monster

40 Entrap

41 Couch

46 Jewel

47 Is

48 Twirls

52 Girl

54 Hydrochloric and nitric, for example

55 Tuner

56 Prayer position

58 Floor coverings

60 Zero

62 Social event with a person whom one has an interest

64 Gravel

65 Canal

66 Cipher

67 February zodiac sign and god of love

68 Citizen of Denmark

70 Fixed charge

For answers, visit thedaonline.com

PET OF THE WEEK



PHOTO BY JANE PETERSON

Meet Buddy. He enjoys car rides around Morgantown and loves under the arm scratches. His favorite foods are eggs and cheese.

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

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			8			9	4	
	8		2	1	9			5
			5					2
	3			9		6		
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4			1	8	6		9	
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WVU 2023 football schedule released

BY LUKE BLAIN
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

Mountaineer football fans can finally mark their calendars as the Big 12 revealed the football schedule for all 14 teams on Tuesday.

WVU's schedule includes contests against all four newcomers to the Big 12 with Houston, UCF, BYU and Cincinnati with one Thursday game. The Mountaineers will not play against Texas, Kansas State, Kansas and Iowa State in the regular season.

As previously announced, the Mountaineers will open their season on Sept. 2 when they travel to play Penn State in Happy Valley.

Three straight home games await the team after the season opener. First, Duquesne will visit Milan Puskar Stadium on Sept. 9.

The Backyard Brawl will return to Morgantown for the first time since Nov. 5, 2011, as WVU will host Pitt on Sept. 16. The Mountaineers will look for a better result than last year's game against Pitt, as they fell 31-38.

WVU will host Texas Tech the following week to open conference play on Sept. 23. After that, the team will make a trip to Fort Worth to face off against the TCU Horned Frogs on Sept. 30.

After their bye week on Oct.

7, the Mountaineers will travel to Houston where they will play against former WVU football head coach Dana Holgerson for the first time since his departure after the 2018 season. The game will be played on Thursday, Oct. 12.

WVU will alternate between home and away games for the remainder of the season, as they will host Oklahoma State on Oct. 21.

On Oct. 28, WVU will be in Florida to play against UCF for the first time since Sept. 11, 2004. WVU is 2-0 all-time against UCF.

Another new Big 12 team will come to Morgantown the following week as WVU is set to host BYU on Nov. 4. The Mountaineers have only played the Cougars once in program history. WVU took a 35-32 win over BYU on Sept. 24, 2016.

The Mountaineers will be back on the road the following week to play the Sooners in Oklahoma on Nov. 11.

WVU will play its final home game against Cincinnati on Nov. 18. It will be the teams' first matchup since Nov. 12, 2011.

A trip to Baylor awaits WVU to close out the season on Nov. 25.

The Mountaineers finished last season 5-7 with a 3-6 conference record. Their Big 12 wins came against Oklahoma, Baylor and Oklahoma State.



PHOTO BY TYLER PRUSINA

WVU's Garrett Greene (6) waits for the ball before a play against Kansas State on Nov. 19, 2022, at Milan Puskar Stadium in Morgantown, West Virginia.

2023 WEST VIRGINIA FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

SEPT. 2 PENN STATE	SEPT. 9 DUQUESNE	SEPT. 16 PITT	SEPT. 23 TEXAS TECH	SEPT. 30 TCU	OCT. 14 HOUSTON
OCT. 21 OKLAHOMA ST.	OCT. 28 PENN STATE	NOV. 4 BYU	NOV. 11 OKLAHOMA	NOV. 18 CINCINNATI	NOV. 25 BAYLOR

HOME **AWAY**

Women’s hoops set to host conference rival No. 24 Texas on Wednesday night

BY RACHEL LIBERT
STAFF WRITER

After coming off a road win against TCU on Saturday, the West Virginia women’s basketball team will host No. 24 Texas on Wednesday night at the Coliseum.

The game celebrates National Girls and Women in Sports Day as well as 50 years of Title IX.

The Mountaineers come into the game with an overall record of 14-5 and a conference record of 5-3. The Longhorns come to Morgantown 16-6 and 7-2 in the Big 12.

Sophomore guard JJ Quinerly led West Virginia in its previous victory against TCU, scoring 23 points in the contest. She leads the Mountaineers in points, averaging 13.9 per game.

Following Quinerly’s third 20-point performance of the year against the Horned Frogs, head coach Dawn Plitzuweit described her as a “stabilizing force” on offense.

Fifth-year guard Madison

Smith has also been a contributing factor to West Virginia’s success, despite not playing in the Mountaineers’ last matchup. The guard averages 12.9 points per game and leads the team in three-point field goals with 41 on the season.

Senior guard Jayla Hemmingway also averages double-digit points per game with 10.2.

While West Virginia averages 67.4 points per game, Texas averages 77.0. Five Longhorns average over 10 points per game, led by guard Shaylee Gonzalez, averaging 12.2 points per game.

Despite the Longhorns outscoring the Mountaineers so far this season, West Virginia averages more shots from behind the arc with 6.5 three-pointers per game compared to the Longhorns’ 4.3.

Leading in rebounds for West Virginia is Hemmingway, averaging 6.1 per game. So far in conference play, Hemmingway has contributed 58 rebounds for the Mountaineers.

Texas’ leading rebound-



PHOTO BY TYLER PRUSINA
Head coach Dawn Plitzuweit against Delaware State on Dec. 3, 2022, at the WVU Coliseum in Morgantown, West Virginia.

ers are junior forward Khadija Faye and freshman forward Amina Muhammad, each averaging 5.4 per game.

While the Mountaineers

offensive efforts. So far, however, there have been no statements made regarding her status against Texas.

Plitzuweit’s team enters Wednesday night’s game with a two-game winning streak with victories over Texas Tech and TCU. The matchup against Texas marks the first time Plitzuweit has faced the Longhorns as a head coach.

Texas head coach Vic Schaefer enters with a three-game winning streak, looking for his third win against WVU in his Texas coaching tenure.

Texas leads the all-time series 15-10. The last time the two teams met in 2022, the Longhorns topped off the Mountaineers 57-58.

On Wednesday night, Plitzuweit and her team look to get their first win over Texas since 2021.

The game is set for 7 p.m. on Feb. 1 at the WVU Coliseum. The Big 12 matchup will be broadcasted on Big 12 Now on ESPN+ and the Mountaineer Sports Network.

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Swim and dive defeats Villanova on senior day

BY TRENT LEWIS
STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia University men's and women's swimming and diving teams defeated Villanova University after honoring their seniors Saturday afternoon at the Aquatic Center at Mylan Park in Morgantown.

The men's team won 207.5-83.5, and the women's team outperformed Villanova 194-100.

Senior swimmers Jacqueline McCutchan and Harna Minezawa along with freshmen swimmers Mia Cheatwood and Ada Szwabinska started the day with a victory in the women's 400-yard medley relay.

The men continued the relay success as senior David Snider, junior Justin Heimes, junior Danny Berlitz and sophomore Conner McBeth finished first in the men's 400-yard medley relay.

McCutchan finished first in the women's 100-yard backstroke race, as well as the women's 100-yard freestyle event. She completed the 100-yard backstroke with a 27.51 final time and finished the 100-yard freestyle with a 24.94 final time.

"It was a really positive at-



Members of the swim and dive teams celebrate a win over Villanova University at the Aquatic Center at Mylan Park on Jan. 28, 2023.

mosphere, which made the senior meet even better," McCutchan said.

Minezawa and Snider also saw individual victories on their senior night. Minezawa earned first place in the women's 100-yard butterfly race, while Snider finished first in the men's 100-yard butterfly.

"It's a dream come true,

honestly, as cliché as it sounds," Snider said when asked what it means to represent WVU on senior night. "I'm not just representing WVU or the WVU swim team, but we represent the state as a whole."

Senior Owen Johns grabbed two victories on the diveboard, winning the men's 1-meter

and 3-meter diving events.

Junior William Mullen, junior Roanoke Shirk, sophomore Reilly Keaney, and freshmen swimmers Max Nielson, Álvaro Santiago and Adam McDonald earned individual victories for the Mountaineers throughout the day.

On the women's team, freshman Olivia Busch, junior



PHOTO BY TOLU OLASOJI

A member of the men's diving team prepares to dive during a meet Villanova University at the Aquatic Center at Mylan Park on Jan. 28, 2023.

Abby Reardon, junior Paige Dressel and sophomore Sarah Krusinski grabbed victories as well.

The swim teams' regular seasons are finished, but the dive teams will host Penn State on Saturday, Feb. 5. After that, both teams will have their sights set on the Big 12 Championships.

"Everybody is all in for this year," Snider said. "I'm excited that we will be able to go out with a bang."

The men's and women's swim and dive teams will compete again at the Big 12 Championships, which will take place on Feb. 22 in Austin, Texas at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center.

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Gymnastics wins home quad

BY JAKE HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia Mountaineer gymnastics team improved to 7-4 on Sunday afternoon, defeating the Eastern Michigan Eagles, Towson Tigers and Iowa State Cyclones in front of more than 1,500 fans at the WVU Coliseum.

The Mountaineers (7-4, 1-0 Big 12) accumulated 196.375 points, outscoring TU, ISU and EMU, who scored 196.025, 195.825 and 194.050 respectively.

WVU went 24-24 on routines for the first time this season and scored the highest they have all season, good for No. 21 in the program's history.

Starting on vault, the Mountaineers scored 49.025, highlighted by freshman Brooke Irwin's 9.850. Freshman Emma Wehry and junior Kiana Lewis both scored 9.825.

Moving on to the bars, West Virginia scored 48.775 with senior Kianna Yancey scoring 9.875, followed by fifth-year senior Kendra Combs scoring 9.825 and Irwin scoring 9.725.

WVU excelled on the beam as well, scoring a 49.200. The team was led by freshman Car-



PHOTO BY RYLAN NEMESH

Kendra Combs on the beam on Feb. 21, 2022.

lee Nelson's 9.875 as well as 9.850 from Yancey and junior Chloe Asper.

The Mountaineers posted a 49.375 score on the floor.

Senior Emily Holmes-Hackerd led West Virginia with a 9.925. Holmes-Hackerd was trailed by Lewis and Yancey

who both had 9.900 scores.

Finally, Yancey finished in first place in the all-around, scoring a 39.375.

For their next meet, the Mountaineers will face Pitt at the Fitzgerald Field House in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at 7 p.m.

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.

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.

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WVU STUDENT MEDIA

THE DAILY ATHENAEUM



For over 134 years, the DA has been the independent student newspaper of WVU. Our newspaper, printed every Thursday during the Fall semester and Wednesday and Friday during the Spring semester, has a circulation of 12,700, placed across WVU's Morgantown campus and inserted in the Dominion Post to all of Monongalia and Preston counties. Our website also serves as a vital news source in and around WVU.



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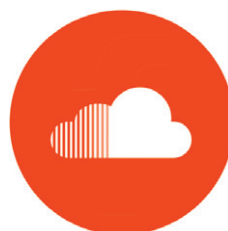
U92 THE MOOSE



U92 the Moose, WVU 91.7FM, is the pioneer college radio station of WVU. Since 1982, U92 has been rocking the airwaves with new and alternative music, specialty music shows, news, play-by-play sports, and sports talk. We also produce podcasts and other audio content, as well as offer DJ services, recording, and more. Our terrestrial radio station can be also heard online via our website, TuneIn, and Alexa device.



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U92 The Moose

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