



Many blue lights at WVU still not working



'Piece of mind': Guest hip-hop artist choreographs piece with WVU Dance



WVU rifle looks to continue success in spring campaign

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WVU's Independent Student Newspaper

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# WVU expands access to naloxone on campus

## RA stabilizes student in residence hall using life-saving medication

BY LARA BONATESTA  
CULTURE EDITOR

*Editor's Note: Recovery from addiction is possible. For help, please call the free and confidential treatment referral hotline (1-800-662-HELP), or visit [findtreatment.gov](https://findtreatment.gov).*

Oakland Resident Assistant Kasandra Hughes was off-duty last month when a resident started showing signs of a possible overdose.

"It's [a] 'better to be safe than sorry' type of situation," she said. "I just asked the other RA to go get me the Narcan, and then we distributed it to the resident."

Narcan, a brand of naloxone, is a life-saving medication that can rapidly reverse an opioid overdose for a short period of time.

"One big thing about Narcan is it will save the life of somebody who is potentially overdosing. But if they're not overdosing, it cannot hurt anybody," Hughes said.

In an email to WVU's student life directors, Executive Director of Residence Life Trish Cendana said the student was "drifting in and out of consciousness" after they "drank a lot" and took "various drugs."

"When UPD and EMS arrived, the student was more stable and able



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TRENTON STRAIGHT

Narcan, a brand of naloxone, is a medication approved by the Food and Drug Administration designed to rapidly reverse an opioid overdose for a short period of time.

to walk to the ambulance," Cendana said. "Don't know if this saved their life, but it was definitely what we had hoped to have occur by get-

ting people trained and having Narcan available."

Hughes, a junior, said she has long had a passion for naloxone

accessibility.

"I grew up in Appalachia," she said. "So I've just always witnessed addiction firsthand, like what it's done to

people and how it's affected those around me."

For her second job at the Mountainlair, she learned about naloxone, and as an RA, she was trained to stay calm in emergencies. But Hughes never thought she would actually have to administer the medication.

Until she did.

"Your hands are shaking ... and you're so close to another person. And you're just trying to remember all the steps of how to administer this little spray," she said.

Despite her stress, Hughes remained calm, and with her fellow RAs' help, she said she kept the resident safe until EMS arrived.

"It was one of those situations where it's like, I didn't have time to freak out because I needed to do my job," she said.

Hughes' actions and quick thinking are the types of skills being taught campus-wide through University efforts to expand access to naloxone for students.

Instrumental to these efforts is Executive Director of West Virginia Sober Living and professor of addiction studies, Jon Dower.

"There are a lot of college students that experiment with psychoactive

See **Naloxone** page 3

# Former fraternity member faces felony sexual assault charge

BY TRENTON STRAIGHT  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A former member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity, who was accused of sexual assault and battery in a civil complaint last month, is now facing a felony charge of second-degree sexual assault.

The charge, filed by a Morgantown

police officer last month, alleges that 22-year-old Joseph McMaster sexually assaulted a WVU student after buying and serving her drinks at a private event held by the fraternity in December of 2021.

According to the charge, the student told responding officers that "she was in and out of consciousness during the incident."

A criminal warrant was issued for

McMaster on Dec. 7, 2022, roughly a year after the alleged offense took place. He has since pleaded not guilty to the charge, according to court records.

The former fraternity member is also the defendant in a civil complaint filed last month by the same student referenced in the criminal charge. McMaster has responded to the civil complaint denying all alle-

gations of criminal conduct.

The civil complaint claims that the female student, who was under the legal drinking age at the time, was served an excessive number of alcoholic drinks at a private fraternity event at Blaze, a defunct Morgantown nightclub, and was later sexually assaulted at McMaster's apartment.

Pi Lambda Phi and the managing partners of Blaze were also ac-

cused of negligence in the civil complaint, which alleged the fraternity and nightclub had a "legal duty" but failed to "ensure underage persons remain sober and that intoxicated persons received prudent attention and care."

The civil complaint further claimed that a "visibly intoxicated

See **Felony** page 4

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**Jan. 9**  
**11:25 P.M. | Unfounded**  
Oakland Hall West  
Drug Incident.

**Jan. 9**  
**8:14 P.M. | Resolved**  
University Place South  
Fire Alarm.

**Jan. 9**  
**7:29 P.M. | Inactive**  
WVU Area 7  
Larceny from a Vehicle.

**Jan. 9**  
**4:11 P.M. | Unfounded**  
Oakland Hall East  
Drug Incident.

**Jan. 9**  
**12:21 P.M. | Resolved**

University Ave  
Hit and Run.

**Jan. 9**  
**9:55 A.M. | Resolved**  
Vandalia Hall Blue  
Welfare Check.

**Jan. 9**  
**7:37 A.M. | Resolved**  
Creative Arts Center  
Found Property.

**Jan. 8**  
**10:54 P.M. | Resolved**  
Boreman South  
Drug Incident.

**Jan. 8**  
**9:53 P.M. | Inactive**  
Oakland Hall West  
Talk with Officer.

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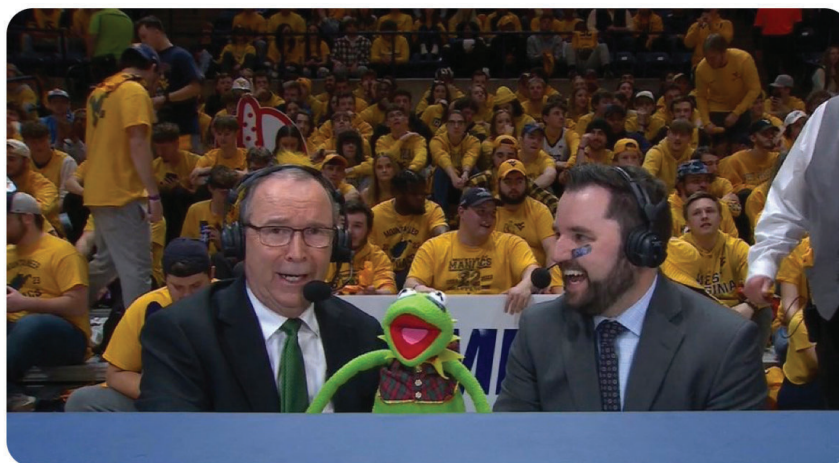


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# WVU seeks support from state lawmakers amid budget setbacks, enrollment decline

BY WILLIAM ARNETT  
U92 CO-PROGRAM DIRECTOR

As state lawmakers enter their regular 60-day session, leaders of higher education in West Virginia look to Charleston for support amid ongoing financial challenges and declining student enrollment.

At West Virginia University, school administrators say they are hoping for some stability when it comes to state funding for higher education, which has dropped repeatedly in the past decade.

"We are hopeful, given the state's finances, that we will not see a reduction but some stability in maintaining our state appropriations at existing levels," Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Rob Alsop said in an interview.

He added that the University could use additional support from the state in ensuring facilities on campus are in an adequate condition.

According to Alsop, the West Virginia Higher Education Commission will be making a request to the state Legislature for "one-time monies" to offset deferred maintenance costs.

The Commission represents a dozen colleges and universities in West Virginia, including WVU.

"We'll be supporting the Higher Education Policy Com-

mission in their request for additional dollars either this year or in the coming three or four years to help us with deferred maintenance needs on our campus," Alsop said.

Last month, administrators reported WVU's financial statements for the 2022 fiscal year to the Board of Governors, outlining the University's financial performance.

While the WVU's net position increased by \$400,000, meaning an overall increase in assets, revenues declined and expenses increased. The financial statements attribute the school's revenue decrease to lower amounts of investment income, grants, gifts and state appropriations.

"If you look at everything that happened during COVID, you know, it sort of turned the overall world upside down, moving forward in a number of different ways. And so we were able to navigate COVID from a financial perspective in an okay position," Alsop said.

However, WVU was able to spend \$183 million on capital projects like the Athletics Performance Center, paving on the Coliseum parking lot (which was partially paid for by a new \$1 parking fee), the Coliseum Courtside Club and renovations to the PRT.

Fewer students going to college has also taken a toll on the school's financial picture with enrollment down 3.5% in the



PHOTO COURTESY WV PRESS ASSOCIATION

George Zimmerman, WVU's Assistant Vice President of Enrollment and Management, speaks on statewide enrollment decline at the WV Press Association's Legislative Lookahead on Jan. 6, 2023.

fall of 2022 from the previous year, according to the financial statements.

In an email to campus faculty and staff in November, Alsop said university administrators expect another decline in enrollment in the 2024 fiscal year, adding next year will be "difficult from a financial perspective."

Declining enrollment is a growing challenge for higher education in West Virginia as a whole.

In a Legislative Lookahead, hosted by the West Virginia Press Association on Friday,

WVU's Assistant Vice President of Enrollment George Zimmerman discussed the statewide decrease in college enrollment.

Zimmerman cited the state's decline in birth rates, which he called a "demographic cliff," as a reason for the drop in enrollment. He added that there needs to be a greater level of preparedness for students entering institutions of higher education.

"We have heard about the [low] math and English scores, we have heard about the need to better support our students,

and that is something we are looking at, I know, at WVU," Zimmerman said.

According to Alsop, the University is financially in a "relatively good position," but he said the state's declining student enrollment will continue to impact expenses.

"I don't think there's any question with, you know, the declining enrollment in the state of West Virginia, and in some of our key markets, that the next several years for the University is going to be one where we're gonna have to do more with less," he said.

Reducing costs, improving efficiency and maximizing revenue opportunities were reported as ways to deal with WVU's budget challenges, according to the school's latest financial statements.

In an email to campus employees on Nov. 17, Alsop reported the University didn't meet its revenue expectations for the 2023 fiscal year and that "additional measures" would need to be taken to meet budget goals.

These measures, which Alsop said should be adhered to "without exception," include a "heavy hiring frost" — asking that "no hiring be done except in critical circumstances" — and a limit to the use of overtime pay and temporary employees.

Additionally, he said all purchases over \$5,000 would need to be approved by a dean or unit vice president, ending "employee only" hospitality events, and that printing usage would need to be limited.

In a Faculty Senate meeting last month, WVU President E. Gordon Gee said the measures are an attempt to be proactive.

"We feel very confident about our overall budget... but the issue is that we have come up with a shortfall," Gee said.

"But we don't want to come back and in six months or a year and say, 'Well gee, we're gonna really have to go into more draconian measures.'"

## Naloxone

Continued from page 1

substances, whether that be alcohol or cannabis, or whatever, through their college experience, and I would hate to see a one-off attempt, maybe a poor decision on a bad night, cost somebody their lives," he said.

Dower's team at West Virginia Sober Living is part of the Monongalia Health Department's Quick Response Team (QRT), which responds to overdoses and substance use cases in the county including those of college students.

"I've administered Narcan myself in my history. If they don't come around in three to five minutes you're supposed to give a second dose," Dower said. "Those are the longest three to five minutes of your life."

Every undergraduate class Dower has facilitated at WVU has included naloxone training as part of its curriculum.

"It empowers people and I think there's a lot of fear when you don't know what to do or how to do it, or what steps you should take should you be around someone that experiences an overdose, and we're empowering students to make important choices and decisions," he said.

Dower believes that naloxone should be part of every medicine kit. The medication has the ability to save the lives of not only people with opioid use disorder, he said, but also geriatric patients and young children who may take an incorrect dosage or consume a medication by mistake.

But Dower isn't the only one on campus working to spread awareness about naloxone. A team of peer recovery support specialists from his organization have also paired with the University to offer free trainings to students.

"When you do Narcan training, you demystify things," he said. "When you bring in someone that's been revived by Narcan and you make it hu-

man, you remove some of that stigma and you let individuals see success stories."

Since Fall 2020, the University has held 14 naloxone trainings, educating 444 students, staff and faculty about the medication, according to WellWVU.

In November, two trainings were held specifically for RAs, and naloxone is now available at the front desk of every residence hall.

"If it saves one life, that's all that matters, right?" Cendana said. "If we save one life because of the use of Narcan then we've made a difference."

The trainings, which typically run from 30 to 45 minutes, cover terminology, basic information about opioids, nasal sprays and other routes of naloxone administration.

"It's good to have an opportunity to go over some foundational information and an opportunity for people to ask questions and just get comfortable with the idea of administering Narcan," Wes Thomas, a senior health edu-

cator with WellWVU who coordinated the trainings, said.

The trainings also cover warning signs of an overdose, such as lack of oxygen, less than six breaths per minute, gurgling sounds when breathing, blue-gray coloring on fingernail beds or lips or unresponsiveness.

WVU has also distributed over 200 fentanyl testing kits since Fall 2022, each containing three testing strips. The kits are available for free, anonymous pickup in the WELLWVU office by room 118 on the floor above Student Health in the Student Health Building.

These efforts come after House Bill 4373 became effective in June 2022, excluding fentanyl test strips from the definition of "drug paraphernalia," in West Virginia.

Students are also raising awareness about resources in the greater Morgantown community.

The Mountaineer Fentanyl Education Taskforce is a student-led initiative that began work in August and has since

gained over 700 followers and 23,000 engagements on Instagram. The group has also visited classes, met with administrators and tabled in the Mountainlair.

"We definitely try to communicate to students that you don't have to be actively using drugs or think you're going to be using drugs to have these things," the task force's Communications Director Avery Connor said. "It's always just good to have just in case. You never know where you're going to be, who's gonna need it."

The task force connects with students as peers encouraging them to learn about the dangers of fentanyl, act to use available resources and share the information.

"WVU wants to keep their students, their faculty, their staff safe and educated and informed. And I think that makes a huge impact," Dower said.

With this education, Dower said, people are more likely to receive treatment. Moving forward, he hopes access to nal-

oxone will continue to expand through training for all first-time freshmen and naloxone to be available on every residence hall floor and in every first aid kit.

"For every one individual that's impacted by a substance issue, five other people, on average are going to be impacted by that person," Dower said. "So when you save one life with naloxone, you're really making that worst day for five other people a whole lot better."

Those interested in naloxone training at WVU can learn about future events by following @wellwvu on Instagram or Facebook, reaching out to Wes Thomas at wthomas2@mail.wvu.edu or submitting a program request on the WellWVU website.

People can also contact the Monongalia Health Department or call the quick response team at 304-602-3305 for training and access.

# Many blue lights at WVU still not working

## *Repairs could take months, school officials say*

BY CHRISTINA RUFO  
BREAKING NEWS EDITOR

As students return to campus for the spring semester, University officials have confirmed little to no progress on previously reported issues with the school's blue light emergency call system.

At the beginning of last semester, The Daily Athenaeum reported that more than half of the blue lights across WVU's Morgantown campus were in need of repair or unable to be used due to a discontinued network. Several were wrapped in caution tape, indicating missing parts or broken lights.

Months later, repairs haven't been made, and many of the blue lights remain out of service.

April Kaull, executive director of communications for WVU, confirmed Monday that 13 of the 30 blue lights across campus are inoperable.

She said the University ordered parts to fix seven blue lights located in "higher-traffic" areas on campus, adding that six still need repairs to address 3G limitations.

However, parts could take eight to 12 weeks to come in, according to Kaull.

"We are waiting for those parts to come in to make the needed repairs as quickly as possible," she said.

In August, school officials told The DA that the University was considering phasing out the emergency call system altogether but first wanted to hear from student leaders on campus.

Throughout the fall semester, school administrators and the University Police Department worked with WVU's Student Government Association to determine whether the system was worth repairing.



A student walks past an out-of-service blue light on Jan. 9, 2023.

PHOTO BY TRENTON STRAIGHT

According to SGA At-Large Senator Devin Price, the body had been discussing the out-of-order blue lights since last year.

"The blue lights not working, I think, has always been a prevalent issue that's been brought up to me both by students and other student government officials as well," Price said.

The DA also reported in October of 2021 that multiple blue lights were out of service, including missing call boxes and broken lights.

Members of SGA have spoken to UPD about concerns regarding the blue lights both last year and this year, with minimal updates or changes being made, according to Price.

"The main responses that we generally get from the University are, they're emphasizing use of the LiveSafe App," Price said. "But we [SGA] do

also think that it's important to have those emergency telephones since they're an opportunity for students who might either not have internet service at the time, or they just simply can't access their phone for whatever reason."

The blue lights add another level of safety for students, according to Price, despite their lack of presence on WVU's Safety Initiatives website.

Last October, SGA members, along with university administrators and UPD officials conducted an accessibility and safety walk. The groups observed conditions in different areas around the campus to compile an information report listing safety concerns, including some about the blue lights, on campus.

Price said that the conversation is "pretty much the same" as always. He said University officials often tell him that the blue lights are expensive to

fix and that they're trying to follow through with repairs, while instead emphasizing a focus on the LiveSafe app.

"I think that with the emergency telephones, they provide a really important supplement to what the LiveSafe app provides," Price said. "Obviously there are a lot of students who are out partying, doing whatever. Sometimes your phone could die, or you could just forget that you have your phone on you or you might not have service."

Haley Roth, a junior at WVU, said the lack of functioning blue lights needs to be addressed.

"WVU has a responsibility to not only repair the blue light system but also to increase the number of blue light stations around campus so that they are effective in keeping both students and the community safe," Roth said.

Sandi Dennison, who's also

a junior, responded to the public safety survey sent out by The DA last month, also emphasizing the importance of the emergency call system.

"The safety on campus feels very performative sometimes. Between work on campus and class, I have to walk back to my dorm in the dark most nights. The problem is that the blue emergency poles have been broken since the beginning of the semester," Dennison said. "With the rise of violence on campus, I thought the University would implement more things to make us students feel safe, but they haven't."

Signs with alternative emergency information, including LiveSafe, remain posted at inoperable blue light locations. Kaull said the University will continue to look at the other lights to determine the nature of repairs.

### Felony

Continued from page 1

McMaster" had been allowed by operators of Blaze "to procure alcohol" for the alleged victim. It also claims that during the event, the plaintiff fell over a table and knocked over a tower of wooden blocks due to her condition.

In the same complaint, the female student said a fraternity member invited her to the event and they lost contact later that night. It alleges that "McMaster [was allowed] to assist the befuddled Plaintiff to his residence ... where he took advantage of [her] obviously inebriated state by engaging in a [sexual assault] without her consent."

Morgantown police officers interviewed the female student after being dispatched to take a report of sexual assault, the criminal charge said.

McMaster graduated from WVU in May of 2022, according to university commencement records,

However, when asked if McMaster faced disciplinary action after the reported incident, school officials declined to comment citing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

In his response to the civil complaint, McMaster asked for the case to be dismissed. The student who filed the lawsuit requested a jury trial in addition to compensatory and punitive damages, as the court deems appropriate.

McMaster posted \$10,000 bail last month and recently waived a preliminary hearing in the Monongalia County Magistrate Court, according to court records.

The criminal charge will be reviewed by a grand jury sometime this year, which will determine if there is sufficient evidence to issue an indictment on criminal charges.

Mark McMillian, McMaster's attorney, declined to comment on both the civil complaint and the criminal charge.

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## ‘Piece of mind’: Guest hip-hop artist choreographs piece with WVU Dance

BY LARA BONATESTA  
CULTURE EDITOR

WVU’s dance studio sits on the top floor of E. Moore Hall with arch windows facing the heart of the downtown campus.

Inside students learn various types of dance including ballet, modern and jazz but as last semester drew to a close, a group of 16 dancers had the opportunity to learn something different: a hip-hop and West African piece.

The piece titled “Piece of Mind” was choreographed by Miami-based artist Robin Sanders who visited WVU in December. It includes music from “United in Grief” and “Mother I Sober” by Kendrick Lamar.

“It’s essentially just kind of dealing with the inner grapplings of self,” Sanders said.

The piece also addresses how artists are navigating the post-pandemic world, according to Sanders.

“In this culture, in this cancel culture, what is happening to artists that are having to redefine themselves coming out of COVID, that was something that was really interesting and intriguing to me,” she said.

“Piece of Mind” is inspired by another piece Sanders is working on titled “Love is the New Black” in which her lead character struggles with her sense of self.

“You get to see her inner grappling with all those kinds of heavy topics of faith, identity, all those things coming out of COVID and being kind of thrust into this space of self-examination because she was isolated,” Sanders said. “So what I’m doing with this piece is kind of working through how I saw things in my mind.”

These themes of identity, acceptance and belonging are represented visually as the dancers are grouped into ensembles representing the concepts of home and generated others.

“You’ll see movement happening between the two. So the inner grapplings are really kind of depicted through these casts of like generated others or home. Home being like that kind have line of defense that keeps you sane and then generated others representing sometimes the external chaos,” Sanders said.

This message-based approach to choreographing has long been part of Sanders’ work. To her, dance is a form of activism.



PHOTO COURTESY AINSLEY MEADOWS

WVU dance students rehearse for upcoming performance of “Piece of Mind” on Dec. 7, 2022.

“I might not protest and picket on the front lines,” she said. “But when I’m able to do work like this, this is my own activism. But it’s also my own catharsis and it’s also my own liberation.”

Sanders’ work is about showing the world what she has to say and about bringing respect to genres of dance that she says are too often labeled “recreational.”

“I feel like sometimes the hip hop and those types of cultural dance don’t necessarily get the respect that they deserve and so it’s always my intention to say something when I’m creating work.”

WVU’s dance program typically invites a guest artist to come and work with students every other year. Sanders’ visit to WVU was made possible by General Hambrick, a WVU professor of dance and musical theater who met Sanders while working on a version of the Nutcracker in Memphis, Tennessee.

“I just loved her choreography in the show,” Hambrick said.

By inviting Sanders, Hambrick hoped to bring more diversity in movement to WVU’s dance students.

“The idea was to bring something to the students that they’ve never done before,” Hambrick said. “And that is a more diverse look at choreography and the fact that it’s West African, which is never taught here.”

Megan Troppman, a junior dance and animal nutrition science student said that Sanders has not only taught her a new style of dance but also a new approach to art.

“She’s really brought a new



PHOTO COURTESY AINSLEY MEADOWS

Robin Sanders leads rehearsal with WVU dance students in E. Moore Hall on Dec. 7, 2022.

aspect of art to our program,” Troppman said. “So on the dance side, I’ve learned new technique and a new style. So that’s been really interesting, but also she’s kind of taught us a different way to be an artist and kind of taught us her artistic process, which has been really interesting to be a part of.”

To Sanders, the ability to bring this education to young dancers means everything.

“To be able to bring this in and help students in academia have a fuller dance experience, that’s just great. So for me, I feel like every dance program

should and that would help to dismantle some of the hierarchy,” she said.

“Piece of Mind” will be performed during the School of Theatre and Dance’s annual concert ‘Dance Now!’ at the Metropolitan Theatre on Feb. 2 and 3 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 5 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available online for \$20 at [cal.wvu.edu/event/dance\\_now](http://cal.wvu.edu/event/dance_now). For more information and to stay up to date, people can visit the School of Theatre and Dance’s website or go to @dance\_wvu on Instagram.

## Three things to do in Morgantown this weekend

BY SABRINA SIEGAN  
ASST. CULTURE EDITOR

Winding down from the first week of the spring semester, WVU enters a three-day weekend in recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The city and the university offer a variety of special events highlighting the holiday.

This weekend, The DA recommends two MLK events and a special dinner event on Saturday at Mylan Park.

### 1 MLK Weekend Film Screening & Celebration

The West Virginia Filmmakers Guild will host a special MLK event on Saturday at The Encore, located at 720 Powell Ave.

The event will feature film screenings and live performances by Al Anderson, Bobby Nicholas and Aristotle Jones. Showings begin at 6 p.m. and admission is \$6.

For more information and to book tickets head to The Encore’s TicketSpice page.

### 2 Dinner Supporting Nonprofit Programs at Mylan Park

The WV Garden and Chef Series, hosted at The Aquatic Center & Track Complex at Mylan Park, kicks off on Saturday.

The event begins at 5 p.m. with a cocktail hour lasting until 6 p.m. Dinner will be served afterwards and will end at 8 p.m.

This dinner’s chef, Ian Israelle, will be serving cinnamon-dusted scallops as a starter, duck two ways as an entree and calvados apple strudel for dessert. The chef said he hopes to make a unique dining experience with exotic flavors.

For ticket bundles, pricing and future dinner dates head to Mylan Park’s TicketSpice page.

### 3 MLK Unity Breakfast

WVU’s Center for Black Culture and Research will be hosting a MLK Unity Breakfast on Monday, Jan. 16 from 8 to 10 a.m. in the Mountainlair Ballrooms.

This event is free and open to the public, featuring Eric Deggan as the keynote speaker. Deggan is a TV critic for NPR and instructor at Duke University, as well as a media analyst.

For more information about this event head to the WVU Center for Black Culture & Research’s Facebook page.

## U92’s top albums of 2022

BY TRISTEN RODRIGUEZ  
U92 MUSIC & CO-PROGRAM DIRECTOR

1. “Ants From Up There” by Black Country, New Road
2. “Darklife” by death’s dynamic shroud
3. “Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe in You” by Big Thief
4. “Hellfire” by black midi
5. “The Forever Story” by JID
6. “Natural Brown Prom Queen” by Sudan Archives
7. “God Save the Animals” by Alex G
8. “Diaspora Problems” by SOUL GLO
9. “De Todas las Flores” by Natalia Lafourcade
10. “Blue Rev” by Alvays
11. “Mr. Morale and the Big Steppers” by Kendrick Lamar
12. “Topical Dancer” by Charlotte Adigery & Bolis Pupul

13. “Aethiopes” by billy woods
14. “Too Much to Ask” by Cheekface
15. “Melt My Eyez See Your Future” by Denzel Curry
16. “Fossora” by Bjork
17. “Ice, Death, Planets, Lungs, Mushroom, and Lava” by King Gizzard and the Lizard Wizard
18. “And In The Darkness, Hearts Aglow” by Weyes Blood
19. “It’s Almost Dry” by Pusha T
20. “MOTOMAMI” by Rosalia
21. “Languish Arts/ Woeful Studies” by Ka
22. “RENAISSANCE” by Beyonce
23. “Once Twice Melody” by Beach House
24. “King’s Disease III” by Nas
25. “Crest” by Bladee & Ecco2k

Editor:  
**Luke Morgan**  
lim00002@mix.wvu.edu

## OPINION

# Blissful Bowl: Does it live up to its name?

BY MADELINE HARRIS  
FOOD CRITIC

Centrally, located on campus, the Mountainlair is one of the best options for students who are meeting friends or attending campus events downtown.

It's also a great location for a bite to eat.

If you have been to the Lair, you have probably seen or waited in line for Panda Express, Which Wich or Chick-Fil-A. You may get lucky, but most of the time you are in for a wait.

But one dining establishment that never seems to have a line is Blissful Bowl.

When I mentioned that I was stopping by Blissful to my friends, they were confused and asked me what that was. Even with its location, the popularity of this establish-

ment has not spread throughout the student body.

Blissful is located next to Panda Express and Chick-Fil-A, in the corner of the row of dining establishments. Blissful offers vegan and vegetarian packed with veggies, whole grains, plant proteins and sauces among other toppings.

The restaurant accepts a plethora of payment options: cash, card, meal plans, dining dollars and mounty bounty.

It's open on weekdays from 10:30 am to 4 pm, as opposed to other dining locations that are open until at least 8 or 9 p.m. each day.

There are four specialty: the Mediterranean Bowl, the Seasonal Bowl, the Asian Bowl and the Curry Bowl. Customers can also build their own with their choice of one grain, one protein, three toppings and a sauce.

When I walked up to Blissful Bowl Monday afternoon, I was lucky enough to find that no one was in line. After a careful consideration, I decided to go with the Asian Bowl, which came with forbidden rice, snap peas, broccoli, radish, bok choy, sesame seed, grilled tofu, avocado, peanut vinaigrette, crispy wonton noodles, pickled vegetables and kimchi.

To be completely honest, I was quite intimidated by my meal because I am not a vegetarian or vegan. I was also unfamiliar with many of these ingredients in the

However, I enjoy meat-heavy meals, so this style of food does not seem like my speed. But it may be what you're looking for!

My bowl came out to be \$10, which seemed pricey to me for what it was, considering I could get a meal for much

cheaper at the other establishments in the Lair.

The peanut vinaigrette was very prevalent in this bowl, which I was not a huge fan of. This added another strong flavor to the wide variety of flavors going on in this bowl.

The wonton noodles were nice and salty, but other than that I would not say this was an enjoyable meal for me.

I personally believe that there were way too many flavors meshed together, and they did not complement each other well. The peanut taste drowned out all the other flavors, and I was not a huge fan of all the vegetables involved.

I personally do not see myself trying another meal from Blissful Bowl, but if you are a vegan or vegetarian in search of a new meal to try, I would encourage you to branch out and check out their options.



PHOTO BY MADELINE HARRIS

A specialty bowl from Blissful Bowl, located in the Mountainlair.

# A look back at U92's top albums from 2022

BY TRISTEN RODRIGUEZ  
AND GRIFFIN "DANGER"  
MCMORROW

U92 CO-PROGRAM DIRECTOR  
AND MASTER DJ

Last year saw quite the influx of good, great and incredible records hitting the ears of music fans across the world.

It seemed to be a year where many artists and bands dropped their most acclaimed works in their respective careers.

Now, here's a look at U92's rankings for the best 25 albums of the year.

## 1. "Ants From Up There" - Black Country, New Road

This triumphant sophomore effort from the English art-rockers blends dizzying melodies and more traditional song structure with familiar post-rock sounds and attitudes to create a product that is more accessible without sacrificing an ounce of creativity or ambition. Frontman Isaac Wood's bona fides as a lyricist were on full display previously- but on Ants From Up There his writing is expanded to new emotional heights as with each track Wood details a loose narrative about the ending of something great but ultimately unsustainable. It's apt then that the creation of this record culminated with Wood's departure from the band- making this release a sort of posthumous

swan song for the version of the group that recorded it. While the great loss of Wood's idiosyncratic prose cannot be understated, it is not the only thing that propels the band nor even this record, as every other member of the group (who have continued to perform since Wood's departure) has an opportunity to shine here as well. From the memorable horn and string motifs heard throughout numerous tracks, to the scurrying violin lines which open lead single "Chaos Space Marine", to the impressively sparse and devastatingly harrowing "Mark's Theme" instrumental at the very center of the record - the soundscapes explored feel equal to the lyrics in their excellence. While this record may act as a triumphant exit with new, meta-textual significance for Wood, for the rest of the band it's a high water mark and (hopefully) just a taste of what's to come.

## 2. "Darklife" - death's dynamic shroud

An absolutely stunning album. "Darklife" represents a turning of the page for electronic music. The latest effort from the trio of noise-makers, presents to the listener the complete opposite of what its title suggests. The record is a course full of uniquely creative tracks that showcase what electronic music can sound like when pushed to its limits. Plunder-phonics, experimental pop, psy-trance, va-



PHOTO COURTESY BLACK COUNTRY, NEW ROAD

"Ants From Up There" by Black Country, New Road album.

por wave, and a litany of other microgenres play vital roles in creating the expansive soundscape that is present throughout the album. Through this soundplay the group forms an entirely new language in the vein of previous innovators like Boards of Canada, The Avalanches, or even the late SOPHIE - guiding the listener through lush and layered vignettes that feel altogether new.

## 3. "Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe in You" - Big Thief

After years of growth and critical acclaim the Brooklyn

indie rockers have found the opus they were always capable of in "Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe in You". At a sprawling 20 tracks and 80 minute run time the efforts here are exhaustive but never exhausting as Adrienne Lenker and co's kaleidoscopic playfulness manage to keep things fresh throughout. From backwater bluegrass country, to ethereal indie rock, and even some trip-hop inspired lo-fi experimentation - this record really does it all. Though this approach to songwriting can be a red flag for a band unsure of their approach, Big Thief manages to

come through with stellar production, songwriting, and a consistent artistic voice which pulls everything together despite instrumental and sonic palettes differing so vastly between tracks. "Dragon New Warm Mountain I Believe in You" stands as maybe one of the best pieces of indie rock in years and as the defining achievement of the band so far.

## 4. "Hellfire" - black midi

Brutal. Visceral. Primal. Mere words can't describe the otherworldly experience it is to listen to this from front to back. Planting their foot firmly in the ground as the band to pay attention to for the remainder of the decade is the commandeering black midi. With "Hellfire" the avant-garde, boundary pushing rock band hailing from London, England has not only released their best record to date but also an imposing artistic statement that demands attention. Throughout the album's 10 tracks, the trio goes on a surreal and overwhelming odyssey of jazz influenced prog-rock adventures that delve into the apocalyptic, the serene and everything in between, creating an end product that is at once boundlessly dizzying and technically impressive. If the bands debut "Schlangenheim" was their abrasive and rebellious greeting, and follow up "Cavalcade" was their intentional step to strip back to something more

meditative, then "Hellfire" sees the succinct marriage of these sounds; often times phasing through both multiple times within a three-minute track. Chaos reigns down in "Hellfire"- a beautiful, cacophonous wall of sound that blends together perfectly.

## 5. "The Forever Story" - JID

From the detailed portrayals of family strife and generational poverty on tracks like "Crack Sandwich" or "Sis-tanem", to the braggadocious arrogance of tracks like "Can't Punk Me" or "Just In Time", to the heart wrenching balladry of "Kody Blu 31" with "The Forever Story", JID has cemented his place within the cannon of hip-hop as a top tier style chameleon, lyricist and storyteller. A technically impressive affair throughout, the record never falters from being anything other than an enjoyable and impactful listen despite the often serious subject matter. If the title of the album is meant to be some commentary on the various struggles black people face in America in the grand fight for liberation (struggles which, the Atlanta native seems to suggest, may go on forever) — it offers some comfort to see artists like JID looking to the past both sonically, lyrically and philosophically to begin to carve out a path for the future. Even if it's a process that may take forever, creative achievements like this one prove that it's not futile.



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### Across

1 Astray  
5 Defect  
9 Front  
13 Every  
14 Stringed instrument  
15 Iraq’s neighbor  
16 Sailors “hey”  
17 Coral reef  
18 Belt up  
19 Spice  
21 Aquatic mammal related to the dolphin with spotted pelt and twisted ivory tusk  
23 Times  
25 Chase  
26 Craze  
29 Killer whale  
31 Swedish citizen  
34 Freudian term  
35 Wilting  
37 Judge  
39 American symbol  
41 Poem  
42 Muslim’s religion  
43 Capital of Peru  
44 Tie holders  
46 Long-term memory  
47 Brands  
50 Large brown and white gull like bird found only in cold seas

### Down

1Songs you sing alone  
1 Slant  
2 Tropical island  
3 Scotsman  
4 Herb  
5 Belong  
6 Diver  
7 Muslim’s God  
8 Large marine mammal with two long turks, flippers, blubber and thick hide  
9 Boxers  
10 Opera solo  
11 Socialism’s Marx  
12 Finish  
14 Impulse

20 Eat away  
22 West northwest  
24 Descendant  
26 Touch  
27 Do over  
28 Creed  
30 Chilean mountain range  
32 Takes the edge off  
33 Thrill  
36 Lizard  
38 Austin novel  
40 Thrash  
42 Abraham’s son  
45 Charles \_\_\_\_  
48 Hearing part  
49 Pouted  
53 Wild dog  
55 Doesn’t win  
56 Go boating  
57 Duces  
58 Related to gulls but is smaller with black capped head , pointed wings and a forked bill  
60 Genuine  
61 Space administration  
62 Killed  
63 Before (prefix)  
65 Electroencephalograph (abbr.)

For answers, visit thedaonline.com



# Pet of the Week



PHOTO BY STACY FIKE

Fritter is a very good girl, who doesn’t mind sharing her food. She gets along great with everyone. She likes to wait until the other cats catch their prey, and then pretend that she was the one who caught it. Her favorite treat is tuna fish.

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

SUDOKU

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

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# WVU hoops set to take on Baylor as both teams seek first Big 12 victory

BY JAKE HOWARD  
STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia men's basketball team will host former Mountaineer Jalen Bridges and the Baylor Bears on Wednesday night at the WVU Coliseum as both teams try to get in the win column in the Big 12.

West Virginia (10-5, 0-3 Big 12) and Baylor (10-5, 0-3 Big 12), both came into their conference slate with 10-2 out-of-conference records. Both have faltered against their Big 12 foes so far, having three losses each.

Both teams were knocked out of the rankings as a result of their poor starts to conference play.

WVU and Baylor are still in good shape as far as playing in March goes. WVU is currently ranked No. 20 in the NET and Baylor is at No. 31, though that may not be where the 2021 National Champion Baylor Bears want to be.

A trip to Morgantown for Baylor means a return for red-shirt junior Jalen Bridges. The Fairmont native spent three seasons with the program and transferred to Baylor after the 2021-22 season.

Bridges, who averaged 8.4 points and 4.8 rebounds per game last season for the Mountaineers, has averaged

8.9 points and 4.8 rebounds per game for the Bears in 15 starts this season.

Bridges isn't the only BU player with Fairmont connections, as senior Dale Bonner spent two seasons playing at Fairmont State University.

Another notable Baylor player is freshman Keyonte George, a top-10 recruit who leads the Bears in scoring with 16.8 points per game.

Adam Flager, who is scoring 16.7 points per game, and his fellow 2020-21 National Championship teammates, LJ Cryer and Flo Thamba, are players who could have an impact as well. Thamba is also the only remaining starter from that season.

For the Mountaineers, fifth-year shooting guard Erik Stevenson leads with 14 points per game, but is on thin ice with head coach Bob Huggins following his second technical foul in two games against Oklahoma State.

Huggins even went so far as to say Stevenson would be out on three strikes if it happened again.

"We gotta stop the stupid-ness. I've had the conversation. I've had another conversation. I'm not going to have another one. I'm just going to say, 'pack your stuff and head out,'" Huggins said. "I know one for sure, the next time it happens, he will no longer be a Mountaineer. We're not doing that."



Fifth-year senior guard Erik Stevenson prepares to shoot a foul shot against No. 3 Kansas at the Coliseum on Jan. 7, 2023.

PHOTO BY TYLER PRUSINA

Stevenson is still expected to continue in the starting lineup as the Mountaineers look to recover from a horrific shooting performance on Saturday night against Kansas. In

their last game, they shot 20-57 (35.1%) from the field and 4-20 (20%) from beyond the three-point arc, both season-lows.

The position of point guard is up in the air, as Kedrian Johnson suffered a concussion

against Oklahoma State and missed the following game against Kansas. Johnson was able to participate in shootaround after the Kansas game. Senior Joe Toussaint made his first WVU start in his absence

and is likely to start if Johnson has to miss another game.

Tip-off from the Coliseum is set for 7 p.m. with streaming available on Big 12 Now via ESPN+.

# WVU names director of esports academic program

BY LUKE BLAIN  
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

West Virginia University named Chris Scroggins as the esports curriculum developer on Wednesday, which school officials say is a major development for the program.

Scroggins will be charged with forming the curriculum for the esports management minor, which is available starting this semester. The program will also be available as a major in the future.

"No matter where they might go with it, our students are going to be able to learn pertinent skills through the program that we build and learn through their passion, which is very important," Scroggins said.

Students enrolled in the minor will be offered courses in esports governance, esports marketing and esports business.

The program will also allow students to work behind the scenes with the university's young esports program.

The esports team started competition in early 2022 and have already had success with teams in "Rocket League," "Madden," "Valorant" and "Call of Duty."

The Rocket League team was the National runner-up in the 2022 CCA Summer Series and won the Mid-Atlantic regional title at the Red Bull Campus Clutch in October of last year. Sophomore Noah Johnson has also drawn national attention as one of the top Madden players in the country.

"Pairing the academic side with the competitive team will put WVU in a position that no one else is really in right now. That's a huge selling point," Scroggins said. "As our students are coming through the program and learning things like event management, casting, and everything else our program will have in it, they'll get to work with these top esports athletes. That can really combine to create an environment here that is special."

Scroggins will be teaming up with Josh Steger, the director and varsity coach of the esports team, to join the two programs.

"What we've been able to do already on the competitive side, with Josh leading the way, really is pretty unprecedented for such a young program," Scroggins said. "We ab-

solutely will be leveraging that and showing people that we're trying to build something similar on the academic side."

Scroggins was previously employed at Shenandoah as the esports director since 2019. He will also serve WVU as a service professor in the College of Applied Human Sciences.

He was also the co-founder of EDGE Consulting, a company that helps organizations become involved and grow within the realm of esports.

"It's exciting that we're offering esports at an institution of this caliber," Scroggins said. "This is the flagship school of this state, and it's spectacular that we're willing to invest in it and really be a trailblazer at this level."



PHOTO COURTESY WVU

Chris Scroggins, director of WVU's esports academic program and service assistant professor in the College of Applied Human Sciences

# WVU football picks up seven transfers from portal as crucial roles need filled

BY RACHEL LIBERT  
STAFF WRITER

In the offseason, the transfer portal is at the forefront of college football. For West Virginia, it has resulted in the loss of several key players, leaving head coach Neal Brown to turn to the portal for new talent to bring to Morgantown.

Brown and his staff have so far acquired seven transfer commitments through the portal. Although the new Mountaineers bring solid talent to the football program, Brown continues to look to fill key positions with experienced players.

Here's a look at the newly transferred Mountaineers.

**Ja'Shaun Poke, WR from Kent State:**

Senior wide receiver Ja'Shaun Poke is one of two Kent State transfers that committed to West Virginia following the 2022 season.

Poke fills a much-needed role for the Mountaineers' offense as the team lost its top four receivers to the NFL Draft and transfer portal. Bryce Ford-Wheaton and Sam James

both declared for the NFL draft while Kaden Prather and Reese Smith entered the transfer portal.

Poke spent four years at Kent State where he scored four career touchdowns and totaled 1033 yards. In his final season at Kent, the Georgia native made 31 receptions for 362 yards.

**Montre Miller, CB from Kent State:**

Shortly after his teammate, Poke, committed to West Virginia, cornerback Montre Miller took to Twitter to announce that he was coming to Morgantown.

Miller comes to West Virginia as a graduate transfer with one year of eligibility remaining after playing at Kent for five years. Over the last two years, the cornerback totaled 99 tackles with six interceptions.

The 2022 season for the Mountaineers featured a young secondary, and Miller's experience could be an asset for West Virginia's defense in the upcoming season.

**Kole Taylor, TE from LSU:** One of the biggest com-

mitments through the transfer portal thus far is Kole Taylor, a 6-foot-7, 289-pound tight end out of Louisiana State University.

Taylor comes to Morgantown with two years of eligibility remaining and will add depth as a pass-catcher for the Mountaineers.

Taylor totaled 17 receptions in three seasons with the Tigers with one touchdown.

**Michael Hayes, P/K from Georgia State:**

Michael Hayes is a versatile kicker out of Georgia State, where he took on the roles of both a place-kicker and punter in the 2022 season. While the Mountaineers already have talented punter Oliver Straw, a place-kicker is needed as Casey Legg decided to forgo his final season of eligibility.

In 2022, Hayes made 11 out of 14 field goals for Georgia State, his longest being 51 yards. The South Carolina native also averages 41.5 yards per punt.

**Keyshawn Cobb, DB from Buffalo:**

Two commitments came for the Mountaineers on Jan. 8,



PHOTO BY TYLER PRUSINA

WVU's Bryce Ford-Wheaton (0) lines up before a play against Kansas State on Nov. 19, 2022, at Milan Puskar Stadium in Morgantown, West Virginia.

starting with Keyshawn Cobb, a defensive back from Buffalo. The 6-foot, 200-pound transfer will have two years of eligibility remaining.

Cobb will likely play in the spear position for the Moun-

taineers as Brown's team lost both players listed at spear, Jassir Cox and Naim Muhammad, on the 2022 roster.

In 2022, Cobb racked up 67 total tackles for the Bulls with one interception.

**Davoan Hawkins, DL from Tennessee State:**

Davoan Hawkins also made his commitment official on January 8, making West Virginia the third school of his college football career. The 6-foot-2, 286-pound defensive lineman began his career at Kentucky, transferred to Tennessee State in 2020 and will enter West Virginia as a graduate transfer to finish his career.

Hawkins recorded 31 tackles in 2022, with one sack and two fumble recoveries.

**Chase Rodriguez, OL from Louisiana Monroe:**

Chase Rodriguez, an offensive lineman from Louisiana Monroe, announced on January 4 that he had received a preferred walk-on offer and was "100% committed" to West Virginia. Although there is no guarantee, as he is a preferred walk-on, Rodriguez will compete to earn a scholarship and could be an asset to the offensive line after losing veteran players.

Rodriguez is listed as 6-foot-2, 346 pounds and will have four years of eligibility upon arriving to Morgantown.

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# WVU rifle looks to continue success in spring campaign

BY JONATHAN HAMILTON  
STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia Mountaineer rifle team returns for its spring season on Friday, looking to continue its strong effort from the fall.

The Mountaineers finished the fall season at 10-1 and earned a national ranking of No. 5.

Ole Miss, Alaska Fairbanks, Kentucky and Nebraska finished ahead of the Mountaineers in the rankings. However, WVU defeated Ole Miss, Alaska Fairbanks and Kentucky during the fall season.

The Blue and Gold's lone loss was to TCU, when they lost to the Horned Frogs 4733-4737.

Other big wins for West Virginia included victories over No. 14 Army West Point, No. 2 Air Force, consecutive victories over No. 19 UTEP and a 4733-4705 triumph over the No. 1 Kentucky Wildcats.

The last of the fall matches was also a victory for the Mountaineers as they knocked off No. 11 N.C. State in Morgantown 4751-4687.

The Mountaineer rifle team is known for longstanding success and has amassed 19 national championships. They look to add a 20th and con-

tinue their dominance, having the most titles of anyone in Division I.

In the fall section of the season, WVU opened up against the University of Memphis, and defeated them by a score of 4712-4645. It was the team's 16th win all time against the Tigers, improving their record to a staggering 16-2 all time against Memphis.

After that, West Virginia would go on to beat nine out of their next ten opponents, and the team would be sitting pretty at 10-1.

Senior Mary Tucker has been a star in the 2022-23 season, as she leads the team in overall points (1189.5). Tucker has been successful in both events and has helped West Virginia in keeping their nearly unblemished record.

Junior Matt Sanchez has also been a solid member of the team. The Tampa Bay, Florida native has been stellar in air rifle, amassing an average of 595 in air rifle, while having 579 in smallbore.

Sophomore Natalie Perrin had a strong fall season as well, averaging a staggering 596 score in air rifle.

West Virginia will look to perform well against their upcoming opponents, with the likes of conference rivals Ken-



WVU rifle fires against Memphis on Oct. 1, 2022, at the Bill McKenzie Rifle Range in Morgantown, West Virginia. PHOTO BY AVERY YEAROUT

tucky, Akron and Navy as well as Georgia Southern, Alaska-Fairbanks and Ohio State

After competing against these teams, with WVU facing Kentucky and Alaska Fairbanks twice, the team will then compete in an NCAA tournament qualifying match on Feb. 18.

Following that, the Mountaineers will compete in the GARC Championships on Feb. 25 and 26 at the WVU Shell Building in Morgantown. After that, the NCAA Championships will be held on March 10-11 in Akron, Ohio.

West Virginia looks to continue its success in its season opener against Alaska Fairbanks on Jan. 13. The start of the match is scheduled for noon.



## STUDENT HEALTH SPORTS INJURIES

### WINTER WEATHER SAFETY REMINDERS

- Many falls occur as people are getting out of their vehicles.
- Walk on plowed or treated sidewalks. Injuries often occur because people take short cuts that aren't safe.
- Ice tends to accumulate much quicker on crosswalks.
- Hold onto the handrails when walking up/down stairs.
- Wear appropriate shoes. When snow, ice, and slush are present, wear shoes that are solid-toed, flat-bottomed, have good tread, and tie up around the ankle.
- Make sure vehicles have completely stopped before walking in front of them at crosswalks.
- Avoid carrying heavy loads or multiple items when walking.

**Schedule an appointment, to help you get back to your sport following an illness or injury.**

**Monday – Friday:**  
7:45 am – 8:00 pm

**Saturday:**  
9:45 am – 4:00 pm

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# 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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