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What to know about campus carry this session

BY WILLIAM ARNETT
U92 CO-PROGRAM DIRECTOR

State lawmakers have introduced a series of bills that would permit concealed firearms on college or university campuses, more commonly known as "campus carry."

Campus carry bills have caused controversy in the past on college campuses in West Virginia, specifically in 2019 when roughly 100 students and faculty protested in Woodburn Circle. The bill, deemed the "Campus Self-Defense Act," died a month later in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Last week, four separate bills were introduced in the state Legislature pushing concealed carry on campus.

Senate Bill 104, introduced by Senator Robert Karnes, and House Bill 2421 by Assistant House Majority Whip Chris Pritt seek to legalize campus carry and would prevent the Higher Education Policy Commission from restricting the practice.

However, the bills would allow for some exceptions where institutions of higher education may restrict campus carry.

Two additional bills — House Bill 2633, introduced by House Ma-

jority Leader Eric Householder and co-sponsors including Speaker Pro Tempore Paul Espinosa, and Senate Bill 10 by Senator Rupie Phillips — were introduced that would allow further exceptions for colleges or universities to restrict the practice.

Some of the exceptions where campus carry may be restricted by colleges or universities include stadiums or arenas with over 1,500 spectators, a daycare facility on the institution's property or an area where firearms would be banned by state or federal law.

HB 2633 and SB 10 list additional exceptions where campus carry may be restricted like places of patient care or mental health counseling, hazardous and animal laboratories and on-campus residence halls, other than in common areas like lounges, dining and study areas.

All four bills do not allow concealed carry holders to partially or fully have their weapons viable, knowingly display the firearm in plain view or make a breach of the peace.

The second two bills would mandate that institutions provide either a secure location for the storage of a pistol or revolver in one residence hall on campus or for a safe to be in a



PHOTO BY AVERY YEAROUT

Students walk in front of the Mountainlair on Jan. 17, 2023.

resident's room.

If passed, WVU would be required to put storage rooms in two separate residence halls on the Morgantown campus.

The same bills would also allow employees who have responsibilities in on-campus residence halls that require them to have concealed carry

licenses to carry a concealed pistol or revolver while in those residence halls during work hours.

The exceptions listed in HB 2633 and SB 10 are virtually identical to the Campus Self-Defense Act introduced in 2019 by state lawmakers.

WVU President E. Gordon Gee has historically opposed campus carry

legislation. In 2021, he shared a letter to the campus community and members of the state Senate, opposing legislative action on campus carry.

"We believe that deadly weapons have no place on our campuses, except in the hands of law enforcement personnel or others authorized by the University," Gee said. "And we have always believed that local control by our Board of Governors is the best basis for decisions about security on our campuses around the state."

This year, the Student Government Association is not waiting for the Legislature to start moving the bills.

SGA will consider a proclamation opposing SB 10 in a regular meeting on Wednesday night.

The proclamation states that SGA opposes "any legislation which will end longstanding prohibitions on the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as college campuses."

If passed, the proclamation will be sent to a collection of university and state leaders, including Gee and Gov. Jim Justice among others.

While the first two bills would make campus carry legal as soon as possible, HB 2633 would wait until July 2024. SB 10 would legalize campus carry in July of this year.

Grad workers still unhappy with student fees, lack of transparency

BY KATELYN ALUISE
INVESTIGATIONS EDITOR

More than 70% of graduate and professional students, who responded to a survey last semester, reported they feel unfairly compensated to meet the cost of living in Morgantown.

The survey, which received over 400 responses and included 37 pages of testimonies, was conducted by the

Graduate and Professional Student Senate. Results of the survey were sent to President E. Gordon Gee, Provost Maryanne Reed, the Board of Governors and other university leaders almost two months ago in the form of a letter.

The letter, which was 52 pages in length, was supported by members of the Student Government Association, who asked for school administrators to meet with representatives of GPSS to discuss solutions.

GPSS first started vocalizing con-

cerns over pay last spring.

Members then met with Reed to discuss raising stipends for graduate assistants, as well as addressing the mental health concerns graduate students face.

Since then, many efforts have been made by University administration to lessen the stress for these students.

For example, the University has hired a mental health counselor at the Carruth Center exclusively for graduate student needs. The University has also implemented a new pol-

icy that allows graduate students to take paid time off for "significant personal circumstances."

According to Interim Associate Provost Richard Thomas, the University is also planning on conducting a survey to assess how graduate students feel about the mentorship they are receiving and has hired an ombudsman to resolve conflicts that they may have with their supervisors.

Thomas said the administration will also be looking into ways to extend graduate students' health insur-

ance coverage.

The first ask, however, was that stipends for these students were raised and/or their student fees became optional or eliminated altogether.

The student fees in question may go towards the Student Rec Center, the Personal Rapid Transit System, the library and other student services.

The initial response from the Uni-

See **Workers** page 3



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Jan. 15
10:19 P.M. | Resolved
University Ave.
Harassment.

Jan. 15
9:15 P.M. | Unfounded
Boreman North
Drug Incident.

Jan. 15
9:19 P.M. | Unfounded
Oakland
Drug Incident.

Jan. 15
7:35 P.M. | Resolved
Coliseum Generator Shed
Burglar Alarm.

Jan. 15
7:09 P.M. | Inactive

University Park Apartments
Prop Alarm.

Jan. 15
6:39 P.M. | Resolved
Coliseum
Burglar Alarm.

Jan. 15
3:28 P.M. | Resolved
Braxton Tower
Welfare Check.

Jan. 15
3:25 P.M. | Resolved
Hodges Hall
Assist EMS Police.

Jan. 15
1:25 A.M. | Warning
Seneca Hall
ABCC Violation.

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What a picture 🤔🤔



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Sodexo invests \$7 million in new dining space

Construction for 'Coliseum Apron Club' to begin this spring

BY NICK JOHNSON
CORRESPONDENT

As part of Sodexo's mission to expand dining options for students on campus, company officials and WVU Athletics have developed plans for a new dining club in the Coliseum.

The new project, deemed the Coliseum Apron Club, was approved by the WVU Board of Governor's in a meeting last month, establishing another dining option for student-athletes and donors.

The new club will be located adjacent to the Gold Gate and near the existing Sodexo kitchen, according to Shauna Johnson, communications director for WVU.

The club will consist of a training-table space for students-athletes in the Olympic sports and a club space for premium seat holders and donors.

In the future, the club may also be available for renting by the general public, similar to other University facilities, Johnson said.

She added that the club's design will also include a large dining area, renovations to the existing kitchen and installation of new equipment to diversify and improve the food choices.

The design process for the dining club will begin this month with construction starting in March and lasting until October.

The project will be funded through the Sodexo Athletic agreement, with \$7 million worth of the company's funds going towards the club.

Sodexo strives to be the best campus dining program, according to WVU Dining Services District Manager Michael Dahl.

Last school year, The Daily Athenaeum reported on dozens of health violations found in WVU dining loca-



PHOTO BY TRENTON STRAIGHT

The WVU Coliseum is located at 3450 Monongahela Blvd in Morgantown near the Evansdale campus.

tions, which included moldy soda machines and 94-degree freezers.

One student was also served raw chicken at a WVU dining hall last year, leading

to outrage amongst University students and parents.

Since then, Sodexo has

been working on improving their dining locations by creating a more sanitary and more diverse dining experience for WVU students.

And the spring semester has already brought new options to students' plates.

Last week, "Chopped" Chef Aarón Sánchez joined WVU in opening the new Mexican dining station at Cafe Evansdale.

According to school officials, Sodexo wants to diversify dining options with no extra cost to students and is always looking to improve its food quality and dining experience.

Part of this is gaining feedback from students.

Last semester, Sodexo released a new communication service named "MyDTxt" for students to give feedback and receive real-time responses.

To keep track of WVU dining and Sodexo news, visit the Sodexo/Dining Hall Coverage section on the Daily Athenaeum website.

Workers

Continued from page 1

versity was to raise the minimum stipend that graduate assistants can receive by \$1,500 over the course of two years.

Since then, the minimum stipend has been raised by \$750, while all other stipends above that minimum remain the same.

Approximately 350 or just 20% of all graduate assistants at the University made the minimum stipend (\$14,250) last fall.

Now, many of these students are saying this raise is not enough to combat their student fees and the rising cost of living.

Last fall, GPSS attended a luncheon with Gee and Reed, where they were able to voice their concerns, though no concrete changes to graduate student pay have been made since.

Sindupa De Silva, president of GPSS, is a PhD candidate pursuing research in how human land use practices impact wetland ecosystem health.

He said he chose WVU for its research and publication record but also to be a part of its culture.

"I knew about it and had learned to love the state and its people even before I came here," he said.

Although De Silva will finish his dissertation at WVU, he said he may not be "happy" doing so.

Like De Silva, at least 38% of students who took the survey from GPSS said they may have reconsidered attending WVU had they known about their student fees and the cost of living in Morgantown.

De Silva said his yearly take-home salary after student fees is around \$17,000 a year as a graduate research assistant. As an international student from Sri Lanka, he is also on an F1 visa and cannot work off-campus.

De Silva spent three years, from 2019 to 2022, completing field research, living paycheck to paycheck, studying 200 sites in total for his dissertation and sometimes spending several days or even weeks back to back in the field, camping out or sleeping in his car.

"Just the amount of stress graduate students are under... we're not capable of being mentally well, because we are constantly in a state of stress."

Sara Crayton is a PhD candidate pursuing research on an endangered species of turtle, which she says is almost constant during "field season."

"It's pretty intense, and that's also a tense time period, because for most of us, we're away from our friends, away from our families, living in field housing," she said.

As a teaching assistant for

a herpetology class, Crayton said she would work anywhere between 30 and 40 hours a week, along with around 20 hours of research while being a graduate student.

Crayton said that, while she had a fellowship at the University, her tuition and student fees were waived, allowing her to be happier and function better.

When her salary dropped as a teacher's assistant, however, small concerns became huge, and budgeting took a toll on her ability to focus.

"The whole purpose of university is education, and so the lack of compensation, the lack of financial compensation that we get and how incredibly high student fees are at WVU is detrimental to the learning process," she said.

She said because they are not compensated well enough, it does not take much, a series of sicknesses for example, to send even students who don't have families to support into debt or make them unable to afford things like rent and groceries.

Crayton said that the changes the University has made to help graduate and professional students is not enough to ease this financial and emotional burden.

"I was really surprised when I saw the email that said there was a new policy on graduate student work life balance...because that wasn't a policy on

work life balance.

"That was a policy that said, 'Hey, if you have some type of extreme medical emergency, or you have a death in the family that actually devastates you, we're not going to fire you, and we'll still pay you,' she said. 'And that just feels like a basic human right.'"

While De Silva uses some of the resources available to students and said he appreciates the efforts of the administration, he feels they are not clearly advertised to the University's "isolated" graduate and professional students, as WVU is primarily an undergraduate institution.

"They do a lot of amazing work advocating for us; however, more people need to know, and change needs to happen because we are facing struggles on a day-to-day basis," he said.

The current goal of GPSS is to make fees both transparent and give graduate students the chance to opt out. But De Silva said an increase in all stipends right now may not be as easy a solution.

Still, he feels the work graduate and professional students do as teaching and research assistants is a "pivotal" part of the University, especially as an R1 institution.

"It would be in the institution's interest to invest in this body of people — to support them, whether that's financially or by workload," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SARA CRAYTON

Sara Crayton is a PhD candidate at WVU.

LGBTQ+ Center welcomes students this spring

BY ASHLEY CUMPSTON
CORRESPONDENT

The WVU LGBTQ+ Center kicked off the spring semester with a student mixer last week, welcoming new and existing students to the campus organization.

The mixer, held at the Maple House on College Avenue, gave students the opportunity to meet new people and learn about the LGBTQ+ Center's resources. Many students that attended the mixer are regular visitors of the Center and members of WVU's LGBTQ+ Club.

"I've been a part of the community at the LGBTQ+ Center ever since I was a freshman," WVU senior Rosemarie Mirabella said. "I started working there shortly after. I've been working there for about a year and a half now, and I also work with the LGBTQ Speakers Bureau."

The Center is a place for students to get to know one another and share their experiences.

WVU junior Layne Gumowski has also been an active member of the LGBTQ+ Center during her time at the University. She shared a memorable experience that took place during fall 2021 when

she painted pumpkins at the Center.

"We all wanted to make some more friends for the coming semester, and I ended up having a blast," Gumowski said. "I met a lot of people from my department as well, and I ended up actually meeting my current partner there."

Ellen Rodrigues, director of the LGBTQ+ Center, discussed the other events that students can participate in as well as programs the Center offers to the community.

"We have trainings, and we come to classrooms," Rodrigues said. "We also provide advocacy, so if anyone has any questions or needs any type of support, they can call us and get in touch with us."

The Center regularly offers Safe Zone training and Transgender Safe Zone training for any group or student organization on campus. These sessions are held on Zoom and participants can register for these training sessions through their website.

"It's somewhere I can relax, and I don't have to worry about hiding parts of myself," said Gumowski.

According to their website, the LGBTQ+ Center is committed to providing faculty, staff and student leaders with the necessary knowledge and

tools to serve as allies to the LGBTQ community on campus with the use of these training sessions.

During these interactive Zoom meetings, participants are provided with information like definitions and preferred usage, how to be an active ally, campus and community climate issues and resources.

"We also have Health Safe Zone training for healthcare professionals and Educator Safe Zone training for teachers and professors," Rodrigues said.

The Center has plans for upcoming game nights, socials and workshops.

"We are very busy and active and we have at least five programs happening every month," Rodrigues said. "We really want to provide this opportunity to welcome new members, folks who are coming here for the first time to WVU."

For example, the LGBTQ+ Center plans to hold a brunch for students on the last Friday of each month. These brunches are organized by the Center's staff and student ambassadors.

The Center also hosts a Queer Book Club that meets the third Tuesday of each month starting on Jan. 24 at 5:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY CUMPSTON

Students gather to play a card game at the LGBTQ+ Center's mixer on Jan. 13, 2023.

Their next event is an informational Zoom session for legislative updates on LGBTQ rights in West Virginia, which will take place on Thursday, Jan. 19. Flyers with the QR code were passed out to students during the mixer and

can be found on the Center's website.

Although the LGBTQ+ Center mostly focuses on students in the LGBTQ community and their LGBTQ rights, the Center stresses that all students are welcome.

"The Center, to me, means so much because it's not just like a place where you can spend your time studying or where you can come to brunch. It's more of a place where you can hang your hat," Mirabella said.

Justice's personal income tax cut moves through legislature

BY WILLIAM ARNETT
U92 CO-PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Gov. Jim Justice's personal income tax plan, as laid out in the State of the State Address last week, will be up for House passage during Wednesday's session.

House Bill 2526 was introduced by Speaker Roger Hanshaw and Minority Leader Doug Skaff at the request of Justice following last week's

address.

Justice described the plan as having "the biggest tax cuts in the history of the state."

"This thing, just saying if we do this, it will take us three years to pull it off," he said in the State of the State Address. "But absolutely it is that aggressive pathway that will absolutely put unbelievable monies right back into all of our pockets."

The bill would cut personal income tax rates by 30% this

year, followed by 10% cuts in 2024 and 2025 — a 50% cut total from current levels.

The bill's first reading happened Monday after the House Finance Committee passed a committee substitute last week.

Revisions include a new section of the code that adds a personal income tax reserve fund to send money back to taxpayers and to meet any shortfalls from general revenue collection estimates.

Democratic Delegate Larry Rowe told West Virginia MetroNews that he was worried about the percentage cuts of the bill across income brackets.

"We're talking about percentages, what people talk about back home on the kitchen table are dollars," Rowe said.

The West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy is arguing for caution on tax cuts, claiming the surplus is made by low

revenue estimates and that the state pulled in less in taxes in fiscal year 2023 compared to fiscal year 2022.

In an interview with WCHS-TV on Friday, House Majority Leader Eric Householder said the passage of the bill in House Finance "sends the message that we are serious about giving tax cuts to our citizens."

Three days are needed for a bill to pass in the House. The first reading on Monday

will advance the bill to Tuesday's second reading when amendments can be offered and Wednesday's third reading when the bill will be up for final passage.

Tuesday's second reading yielded no amendments offered, but the House moved the bill to third reading with the right to amend, allowing delegates another chance to change the bill before the final vote.

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‘Clothing equals confidence’: New WVU club advocates for accessible fashion

BY AUBREY BURKHARDT
STAFF WRITER

Runway of Dreams, a national organization dedicated to empowering people with disabilities through fashion, is now open for students to join the West Virginia University division.

In October 2022, club president Cassie Stewart, a WVU graduate student, saw a post from the organization explaining how they would like to expand nationally.

“When I actually was about to graduate, I was really conflicted between special education and fashion,” she said. “I had a teacher who worked in special education, she sat me down and said, ‘Hey I know your goals, do fashion and you will find some way to link it all together.’”

Stewart, who has narcolepsy and has been surrounded by loved ones with disabilities her whole life, noticed that only certain individuals were at the center of the fashion industry. Now she focuses her research on bringing accessibility to clothing through adaptive apparel and hopes to expand this work at WVU with the new club.

Runway of Dreams was founded in 2014 by Mindy Scheier, inspired by her son who has muscular dystrophy, in hopes to create accessible fashion.

Scheier has spoken at Ted Talk events and created a talent agency promoting individuals with disabilities called Gamut Talent Management.

In her Ted Talks, Scheier discusses how getting dressed is her favorite part of the day and how her son dreamed of wearing jeans but couldn’t.

“Fashion holds the key to a vital lifeline, clothing can be transformative,” Scheier said in her Ted Talk. “Clothing equals confidence. So tomorrow when you are starting your day and you are thinking about what you are going to wear. I hope you appreciate the process and think about how what you chose makes you feel.”

After researching common accessibility issues in fashion, Scheier made clothes with magnetic closures, adjustability through elastic and internal hemming and alternate ways to get the clothing on and off the body. She then set her goal to educate the fashion industry and launched the first mainstream adaptive collection through a partnership with Tommy Hilfiger.



PHOTO COURTESY RUNWAY OF DREAMS

Runway of Dreams holds fashion shows featuring adaptive clothing.



PHOTO COURTESY RUNWAY OF DREAMS

Runway of Dreams has a variety of collegiate chapters at universities across the country.

“Her [Scheier] favorite part of the day is something she wants everyone else to be able to experience. Which is just incredible and very like-minded to how I feel,” Stewart said.

Last fall, Stewart presented the club in front of members of SGA, who supported the idea.

Brooklyn Milam, a senior college senator for the Health Sciences Center, believes that everyone deserves to wear

what makes them feel confident and inspired.

“Fashion is for everyone and should be accessible to everyone,” Milam said. “I am passionate about advocacy and accessibility and I think that this organization will do a great job at both here on campus.”

Stewart also hopes to collaborate with other student organizations.

“The Fashion Business Association is definitely someone that we plan to work with a lot,” Stewart said. “So one of the things that you do as a club is an adaptive runway show every year.”

She said that the fashion department has invited the club to be a part of their show.

The club will host panelists of all different kinds: advocates, people with disabilities

Three things to do in Morgantown this weekend

Morgantown has a lot of art-inspired events taking place downtown that offer a great break from studying. This weekend, The Daily Athenaeum recommends a WVU Ceramic’s event, a mac & cheese cook off and a wood burning workshop to explore your creative side!

1 WVU Ceramics Empty Bowls Throw-a-Thon

WVU Ceramics will be hosting a throw-a-thon making bowls on Saturday for Empty Bowls Monongalia, an organization that functions to increase public awareness about food insecurity.

This event will take place at the Creative Arts Center Ceramics Studio from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. followed up by trimming on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For more information head to WVU Ceramics’ Facebook page “West Virginia University Ceramics” or Instagram @wvuceramics.

2 Art Bar’s Mac and Cheese Cook Off

For foodies, the Morgantown Art Bar will be co-hosting a mac and

cheese cook off with Buddy’s Bud Co. Participants will be able to sample 25 entrees from contestants. There are cash prizes available for the top three cooks.

This event will take place at 3 p.m. on Saturday at 268 High Street, with \$10 admissions that can be purchased at the Art Bar’s eventbrite link.

More information can be found on Morgantown Art Bar’s Facebook page.

3 Wood Burning Workshop

The Morgantown Art Bar will also be hosting a wood burning coaster class this Sunday from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at 268 High Street.

Participants will be able to create two coasters while sipping on their choice of hot cocoa or coffee with specific topping choices. The price of the class is \$35 per person and will be paid for via Venmo to the instructor.

To purchase tickets and for more information head to the Art Bar’s Instagram page: @morgantownartbar, be sure to check the comments!

in the industry and those who do social media campaigns.

“Everything that we’d be doing is raising money for the organization, but one of the things that Runway of Dreams does that’s personally my favorite, is the wardrobe grants,” Stewart said.

These grants allow individuals who are not able to afford adaptive apparel to receive a grant.

“Adaptive clothing can be expensive. When you’re thinking about it, most things that are geared towards people with disabilities, especially hardware extensions of themselves such as wheelchairs, are often really expensive.”

The club will offer a place on campus for the disability community at WVU to come together, promoting inclusion

and raising money for the organization.

The club’s main form of communication will be on discord where individuals can be placed under the role of a community supporter.

“Basically if you want to be a part of this but are not able to commit to the club, or are an alumni, or just want to support the mission in any way, people can join under the role of a community supporter,” Stewart said.

Stewart says they want the club to be as accessible as possible.

For more information, go to the organization’s Instagram page @runwayofdreamswvu, go to their linktree located in the bio, or email at runwayofdreamswvu@gmail.com.

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OPINION

ALBUM REVIEW | SZA slays again in latest album, 'SOS'

BY MADDIE HARRIS
FOOD CRITIC

An artist with the ability to capture the hearts and minds of her listeners, R&B singer SZA is a master in conveying thematic concepts to the audience with a blend of different sounds and vocal elements.

Between the years of 2017 and 2022, SZA released a few singles here and there alongside her studio album "Ctrl." One popular single was "Good Days," which became a hit through online platforms such as TikTok. The song's airy atmosphere lingered in the minds of listeners, reminding them of their lives' good days.

These songs were just a tease at what was to come in SZA's newest album, which was released right at the end of 2022, leaving audiences hanging for nearly five years in between albums.

SOS, SZA's newest studio album, features 23 songs. 20 of the songs showcased are completely new, while the other 3 include her previously released singles: "Good Days," "Shirt" and "I Hate U."

Upon its release, "SOS" has spent the last 5 weeks seeded at number one on the Billboard top 200, the first album to do so since Adele's "30" in 2021. Many songs have taken the internet by storm, so here is a rundown of SZA's newest tracks.

Her album opener is the song the album itself was named after, "SOS." This piece sets the tone for the rest of the album; the lyrics show her taking back what belongs to her and demonstrates SZA's evolution. Next is "Kill Bill," which is

one of the most popular songs due to TikTok, and the catchy lyrics of "I might kill my ex/not the best idea."

"Seek and Destroy," is a very upbeat number with some of SZA's most impressive vocals, as well as a catchy chorus revolving seeking freedom and space.

"Low" is another popular song from TikTok, where SZA seems to experiment with a different tone of voice, one more slowed down and deep. This mirrors her vocals in "Love Language," which is an intimate romance song with deep lyrics.

"Blind," yet another popular song through social media, is relatable in the sense that people tend to pretend they can't see the things that they do not want for themselves.

Similarly, "Snooze" is all about not wanting to miss out on life, even by sleeping. Both songs show how people cope and react to situations life throws out, with the slow melody instilling a feeling of longingness.

"Notice Me" follows the same theme, but this time with an upbeat chorus and higher vocals than the last few. This song explains the human need to be noticed in such a beautiful way.

Meanwhile, "Gone Girl" further explains the need to be noticed, but in a much more slow and personal sense. The music portrays desperation, as SZA describes not wanting to be without someone, most likely a significant other.

"Smoking on my Ex Pack" is a side of SZA that the audience has not been familiarized with on this album, the song sounds as though she is yell-

ing directly at one person. The song is only a minute and half long, in a revenge arc against her ex.

"F2F" is one of the most upbeat SZA songs I have ever heard, like a teenage rock anthem in a way. It has a very generic melody that many could enjoy.

"Nobody Gets Me" is another powerful anthem, where SZA uses her change in tone to emphasize the most meaningful lyrics in her overall message.

"Conceited," one of my personal favorites, is guaranteed to get you feeling groovy. The beat is very catchy and the lyrics lighthearted, perfect for dancing. Getting the same vibe from "Too Late," these songs show SZA's talent of making relatable songs very catchy.

"Special" is a very relatable song intended for a female audience, as SZA wishes she was "special" and like other girls, using very specific examples of what she wishes she could be. It is definitely one of the more somber songs on the album.

Finally, "Far" is SZA's anthem about changing who she is and wanting better for herself. She repeatedly emphasizes the same lyrics, showing the value they have to her journey.

Last but not least are the songs featuring other artists. Those consist of "Used" ft. Don Toliver, "Ghost in the Machine" ft. Phoebe Bridgers, "Open Arms" ft. Travis Scott and "Forgiveness" ft. Ol' Dirty Bastard. Each of these artists have a very different musical style than SZA, which provides contrasting vocals to her music.



PHOTO COURTESY SZA

"SOS," the second studio album by R&B singer SZA, released through Top Dawg Entertainment and RCA Records on Dec. 9, 2022.

My personal favorites are "Used" and "Open Arms," partly due to my liking for Don Toliver and Travis Scott, but also because I would never have suspected artists so vastly different to collaborate with

each other.

Looking at the album as a whole, SZA is transforming and blossoming into her career, exploring many different styles of music throughout this album. No two songs

sound the same, which is very important in creating music.

While some people may not like certain songs, there is enjoyable music in "SOS" for everyone to find.

STAFF SHORT | Best streaming services for college students?

BY THE DA STAFF

Winter break is a time to sit back, relax and, most importantly, catch up on any popular television shows or movies that you may have missed over the past year.

But with so many streaming platforms — all with different options — it can be difficult to make a choice. Here are the DA Staff's favorite platforms.

Luke Morgan, Opinion Editor

Disney+ has a great variety of shows. Whether you're feeling nostalgic for programs from your childhood like "The

Sweet Life on Deck" or looking for newer Disney+ originals like "The Mandalorian," there's something for everyone.

I'm a huge fan of Star Wars as well, and it's great to have all the films, cartoons and live action shows in one place.

Starting only \$7.99, you can also bundle Disney+ alongside Hulu and ESPN+. Students can get 15% off of a yearly subscription.

Perfect during the holiday season, Disney+ is one of the most family-friendly streaming services available.

Trenton Straight, Editor-in-Chief

HBO Max is the most elite streaming service. While it may be on the pricier side,

starting at \$9.99 for HBO Max with ads, the programming — featuring hit dramas like "Succession" — makes up for the cost.

Despite the higher price, I miss Euphoria Sundays.

Sydney Wentz, Podcast Editor

Peacock has many hidden gems of TV both past and present including the first four seasons of "Yellowstone," the entirety of both "The Office" and "That 70s Show." Plus, it's free if you have Xfinity wifi, which is relevant to college students who may be short on cash.

Who doesn't love free things?

Peacock provides some of

the best content for the lowest price possible. The only downside is that there are advertisements.

Luke Blain, Co-Sports Editor

As bad as Netflix is about canceling shows before giving them a chance to develop, there are some true great ones on the platform.

Everybody knows about the big-hitters like "Stranger Things" and the recently popular "Wednesday." There are also critically acclaimed series' in "Peaky Blinders," "Better Call Saul" and "Ozark" available starting at \$9.99.

Many of its original films are hit or miss, but there are some quality movies in "Tick,

Tick... Boom," "Marriage Story" and "All Quiet on the Western Front."

The real ones know how underrated "The Umbrella Academy" is.

Katelyn Aluise, Investigations Editor

With the rising cost of cable, keeping up with our favorite channels is becoming difficult. But have no fear, the CW is here.

The CW offers a free app with streaming for all your favorite CW shows, past or present from the pages of DC to the booths of Pop's Chock'lit Shoppe. The only catch: you'll have to catch up on the latest episode at least a day later than those with cable.

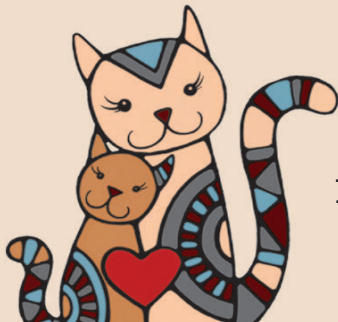
But stay off of social media

for at least 24 hours, and it'll be worth the pennies you save.

Caroline Murphy, Multimedia Director

As someone that loves movies but loves free things more, I have to talk about Kanopy. This underappreciated streaming service is full of award winning films, indie flicks, cult classics and documentaries, all for free.

You can access this service using your local public library or using your university login information. In 2023, libraries are hot, and paying obscene fees for lackluster streaming services is not.



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CROSSWORD

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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**

 - 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
- 51 Body of water
 - 52 Data transmission rate
 - 54 Voiced
 - 56 Night sky quality
 - 59 Squirrel's dinner
 - 63 Animal feet
 - 64 Proposal position
 - 66 Balances ball on nose
 - 67 Revel
 - 68 Heron
 - 69 Relive
 - 70 Otherwise
 - 71 Ding's partner
 - 72 Cabbage salad
- 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.)
 - 67 Short-term memory

For answers, visit thedaonline.com



Pet of the Week



PHOTO BY AURORA STONE

Meet Serena. Serena is a puggle (pug beagle mix). She is eight-years-old and loves to run. I have had her since she was one. Her birthday is March 1st. Fun fact about Serena: before we adopted her she was returned to the shelter after escaping from an elderly couple. She loves to roll over and dance for her favorite treat, ham.

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

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S.W.A.T. is a group of trained students interested in being a part of a broader culture of wellbeing here at WVU. These peer educators, or what we like to call them, **Wellbeing Ambassadors**, are trained every semester to facilitate and properly educate peers in the areas of Alcohol and Other Drug Education, Sexual Health, and Stress Management.



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Women's hoops looks for fourth-straight Big 12 win against Kansas on the road

BY RACHEL LIBERT
STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia women's basketball team heads to Lawrence, Kansas, on Wednesday looking to pick up its fourth conference win under head coach Dawn Plitzuweit.

The Mountaineers enter the game 11-4 and 3-2 in conference play, while the Jayhawks enter their home court with a 12-4 overall record and 3-2 in conference play.

West Virginia is coming off of an upset over No. 18 Baylor, its third win in a row against Big 12 opponents.

West Virginia's offense dominated in the recent matchup against the Bears with four Mountaineers scoring double digits and Jayla Hemingway earning a double-double.

Mountaineers JJ Quinerly and Madisen Smith lead the

Mountaineers in points per game. Sophomore Quinerly leads with 13.3 and fifth-year senior Smith averages 13.1.

Senior guard Jayla Hemingway leads West Virginia in rebounds, averaging 6.1 per game.

West Virginia holds a three-game winning streak with wins over Kansas State, TCU and Baylor. A win over Kansas would give Plitzuweit's squad momentum ahead of conference opponents Texas Tech and TCU to end January play.

The Jayhawks enter Wednesday night's game with a three-game losing streak, most recently falling to Oklahoma by six points.

Kansas is led in points by senior center Taiyanna Jackson, averaging 15.1 points per game. Jackson also leads the team in rebounds, averaging 12.3 per game.

West Virginia and Kansas

have similar resumés on both sides of the ball, with the Jayhawks averaging just 6.4 more points per game than the Mountaineers.

Despite Kansas outscoring West Virginia per game, the Mountaineers lead beyond the arc, averaging 6.5 three-pointers per game in comparison to the Jayhawks' 5.3. Smith leads West Virginia in three-point field goals, totaling 38 on the season and will be a crucial aspect to the Mountaineers' offensive scheme in Lawrence.

Head coach Plitzuweit looks to continue the success of her Mountaineer tenure with her second conference road victory at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 18, at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Kansas.

The game will be
broadcasted on Big 12
Now on ESPN+.



PHOTO BY DUSTIN PAUL

Sophomore guard JJ Quinerly drives to the basket in a home matchup against Baylor on Jan. 15, 2023.

Men's basketball to welcome No. 14 TCU, still in search of its first conference win

BY JAKE HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia men's basketball team is set to welcome the No. 14 TCU Horned Frogs to the Coliseum on Wednesday as the Mountaineers still search for their first win against a conference opponent.

The previously No. 24 WVU has fallen out of the rankings as the new year has seen a continuing series of misfortunes for the Mountaineers (10-7, 0-5 Big 12), including close losses, free throw struggles and transfer guard Jose Perez being deemed ineligible by the NCAA this season.

The Horned Frogs (14-3, 3-2 Big 12) have retained their preseason No. 14 ranking, after falling out of the Top 25 in the first month of the season. They have risen back up to the fourteenth spot in the rankings after winning 12 of their last 14 games.

TCU is led by star junior guard Mark Miles, who is averaging 19 points and 3.4 assists per game. Senior forward Emmanuel Miller is also a big factor, averaging 14.7 points and



PHOTO BY TYLER PRUSINA

Fifth-year senior guard Joe Toussaint goes in for a layup in the game against Baylor at the Coliseum on Jan. 11, 2023.

6.2 rebounds per game. Senior point guard Damion Baugh is fourth in the Big 12 with 5.2 assists per game and also averages 12.2 points per game.

The Horned Frogs and Mountaineers faced each other twice last season, splitting the season series. On Feb.

21, 2022, West Virginia lost 77-67 to TCU but won the return game on March 5 by a score of 70-64.

TCU is still seeking their first win at the Coliseum, as they are 0-10 in their trips to Morgantown.

Games in Fort Worth or

in the Big 12 Tournament against the Mountaineers haven't treated the Horned Frogs much better, as they are only 4-6 and 0-1 in those respects. Overall, TCU is 4-17 against WVU.

Despite the bad start to the conference slate, Huggins is

still optimistic about the team.

"We've cleaned up the turnover issue. I think they're playing hard. They played hard in that game. Every once in a while you need a break," Huggins said.

"I think what people don't understand is that we have

such a mix of guys," he added. "I think for all the doubters out there, we're going to be a good team. Now we got to make free throws, that's got to change."

Huggins also pointed out that the team is still mixing and they'll get better with more experience together.

"We've got freshmen, two very, very good freshmen but I can't play them now. I can't play them in hard spots right now. We've got two or three sophomores that are going to be really good players. They're not quite there yet," Huggins said. "We've got some transfers. We've got some junior college guys. And we've got some portal guys. I don't care who you are, if you put all that in a mixing pot it's going to take us a little while."

"Now, when everybody gets to clicking and understanding what one another does a little bit better. Don't worry about us being 0-5. We're going to catch up fast."

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

West Virginia club hockey looking for 'more ice' after BOPARC agreement

BY LUKE BLAIN
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

Last week, the Morgantown Board of Park and Recreation Commission (BOPARC) revised renovation plans for the city's ice arena after hearing concerns from community members. Local teams can now have a shortened 2023-24 hockey season, with the first of two phases of renovations beginning in March.

At West Virginia University, the announcement that the city's ice arena was getting an upgrade was pleasing to hear. However, leaders of WVU club hockey say they were hoping for more.

Todd Gookin, president of WVU club hockey, said the renovations are welcomed and that his players are happy to get part of a season. But he added the team could use an additional arena altogether.

"We're hoping that this might also open up some avenues for more ice," Gookin said. "We need a second pad of ice in Morgantown. That's just a reality."

Some of the renovations listed by a press release from BOPARC include mechanical, electric and plumbing upgrades and replacement of the ice slab and under-slab piping, as well as new siding, insulation and roofing.

When the levees were initially being passed for the renovations, Gookin gave the Morgantown City Council two requests. He wanted more ice, either in the style of a studio sheet or a second sheet of ice, and better lines of sight for spectators.

Neither of those requests are being met, according to Gookin.

"It's still not gonna be a good venue after they spend 15 million renovating it," Gookin said. "That's the thing that just got me shaking my head is we're putting a lot of money into something that still isn't ideal for what we need."

The team is run through the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA), which is separate from the NCAA. WVU's team, however, still plays against NCAA teams.

The ACHA allows schools to have multiple teams. WVU has men's teams in all three divisions as well as a Division II women's team. With a total of four teams, ice time can be hard to come by. WVU D-I hockey coach Shane Buckley believes a second rink would be a big help in that aspect.

"Having a second sheet of



PHOTO COURTESY OF WYATT MURPHY

The WVU hockey team stands on the ice before a game.

"We need a second pad of ice in Morgantown. That's just a reality."

-Todd Gookin, president of WVU club hockey

ice would alleviate some of those things and also make life easier for youth hockey where, maybe there's a team who's able to get on the ice a little bit more every week, which helps with development [and] helps with the enjoyment of the game," Buckley said.

The current plan is to have the renovations take place in two phases that would allow for a shortened open season of the ice rink, as opposed to a full year of construction. The full-year plan would result in the hockey program having to miss an entire season.

The plan has flipped between the two options in the past month, and Gookin said WVU's hockey program has not been kept up to date with new information.

"We had a Zoom meeting on [Dec. 29] where they said we'd have a shortened season," Gookin said. "Two days later in the newspaper, they were shutting the rink down altogether."

The announcement was very unexpected, according to Buckley.

"We were all kind of blindsided by it," Buckley said. "That's one thing that I wish could

have been done a little bit differently so we could have had a little more of a heads up so we could have prepared something for our guys."

The news of a full-year shutdown sparked outrage and protest from the local community.

After reconvening, city council members and BOPARC decided on a shortened 2023 season. While it may not be ideal for the team to have a shortened regular season, Gookin said the players are happy to be able to play.

"At first they were just afraid that they would have no ice," Gookin said. "So they're happy that we have ice next year."

While a second rink is not in the works right now, Gookin remains hopeful something can happen in the future.

"It's a partnership," Gookin said. "It's kind of opened that dialogue, which has been refreshing given that we're talking to people that a month ago, would not entertain this conversation."

The current hockey season will end on Feb. 26, 2023, and renovations are scheduled to begin on March 1.

U92 SPORTS COVERAGE

Sportsnight

Wed., Jan. 18, 6-8 p.m.
WVU Sports Hour

Tannor Lambert hosts the show that is exclusively WVU sports related, with a rotating cast of U92 personalities joining them each week. Each half hour is devoted to both the men's and women's basketball teams. We'll talk about previous and upcoming games, as well as season outlooks and projections in the Big 12 conference.

Wed., Jan. 18, 8-10 p.m.
The Sportspage

Tannor Lambert hosts the show that focuses on national sports stories, with a rotating cast of U92 personalities joining them each week. We'll talk NFL, NBA, College Basketball, and the



NHL to give listeners wide ranging viewpoints on the sports world's most intriguing storylines.

Women's Basketball

Sat., Jan. 20, 1 p.m.
WVU vs. Texas Tech

Play-by-play: Tannor Lambert and Brian McQuillen

Pregame starts at 12:30 They will talk all things WVU women's basketball leading up to the game and will be back for halftime and post-game coverage.



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Mountaineer tennis set to begin spring slate this weekend

BY LUKE BLAIN
CO-SPORTS EDITOR

The WVU women's tennis team will kick off their 2023 spring season this weekend in a doubleheader on the road.

The Mountaineers come off of a 7-17 season with an 0-9 conference record last spring.

"We are excited to get the spring season underway and continue to establish our program on a national level. We have a strong slate of matches in January and February that will prepare us for the Big 12 portion of our spring competition," Lisac said. "I'm looking forward to challenging the group to rise up to the occasion and continue to rack up program firsts."

On Saturday, the team will travel to Philadelphia to play Penn and Temple in a double-header.

Next weekend, West Virginia will the road again facing off against Indiana.

WVU will host the following two weekends as they will open home play with Northern Kentucky on Feb. 2 and then Penn State on Feb. 5. The in-state rival Marshall University will visit Morgantown the following weekend on Feb. 10.

The Mountaineers will close their homestand on Feb. 11

when they host Mt. St. Mary's.

Radford and Virginia Tech will be the Mountaineers' opponents the following weekend, as they will play both at the Burrows, Burleson Tennis Center at Virginia Tech. WVU will face Radford on Feb. 18 and will play against Virginia Tech the following day.

The Mountaineers will come home to another doubleheader on Feb. 25 with Youngstown State and Morgan State visiting Morgantown. Their next match will also be another double-header against Cleveland State and Howard.

WVU will kick off conference play after the double-headers with Kansas State visiting on March 10 and Kansas coming on March 12.

The Mountaineers' next match will be a non-conference matchup as Dayton will come to Morgantown on March 18.

A road stretch awaits the Mountaineers next, as they will travel to Baylor on March 24. After that, the team will go to Austin to take on the back-to-back reigning National Champion No. 1 Longhorns on March 26.

WVU will make a trip to Oklahoma on March 31 to face off against the national runner-up No. 4 Oklahoma Soon-

ers and then No. 13 Oklahoma State on April 2.

The Mountaineers will close the season with another home stand, first welcoming No. 22 Iowa State, the former team of senior Ting-Pei Chang, on April 8. The last non-conference match will follow on April 11, as Duquesne will visit Morgantown.

WVU will wrap up the season with back-to-back Texas teams as they will host Texas Tech on April 14 and then TCU on April 16.

The team will play in the Big 12 Championship at Kansas on April 20-23 in hopes of making the 64-team National Championship Tournament.

The Big 12 is a very strong women's tennis conference, as Texas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Iowa State are all ranked in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Top 25 Coaches Poll. Baylor, Kansas and Texas Tech also received votes.

WVU comes into the season with a young roster with five sophomores and one redshirt freshman on a team of nine total members. The only change to the roster from last season was the loss of fifth-year senior Nastya Bovolskaia and the addition of redshirt freshman Maja Dodik from Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



PHOTO BY JAKE TAYLOR

Head coach Miha Lisac meets with the West Virginia tennis team against Oklahoma State on April 8, 2022, at the Summit Tennis Academy in Morgantown, West Virginia.

The team is led in doubles by the record-breaking duo of sophomore Camilla Bossi and senior Ting-Pei Chang, who

are the first players in program history to receive a preseason ranking at 37. The tandem became ranked last season for

the first time in team history after upsetting then-No. 5 duo of Mel Krywoj and Alicia Herero of Baylor.

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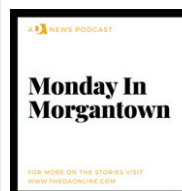
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This is DubV 411- West Virginia University's very own weekly update podcast. Every week, Maddie Harris and Lauren Taylor will fill you in on the buzz happening in the coming week on campus and around Morgantown.

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.



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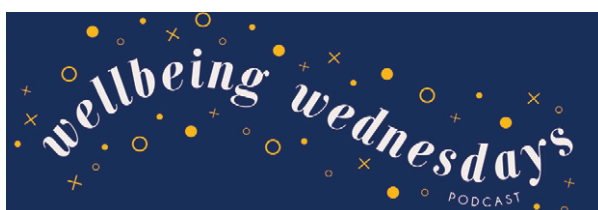
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GradLife 601 podcast series, we'll share the achievements and insights of West Virginia University graduate students and faculty. We'll discuss their experiences and how they came to be passionate about their research. We'll also talk about life beyond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



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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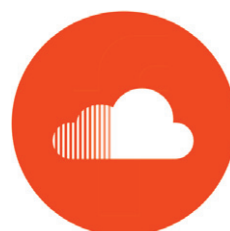
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