THE DA

WVU remembers Mountaineers who have recently passed away
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No more instant ramen, go to Yama
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Mountaineers looking for answers to solve run game blues
p. 8

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WVU's Independent Student Newspaper MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 www.thedaonline.com

PopCon celebrates geek culture in West Virginia

BY KAYLA GAGNON
VIDEO EDITOR

Hundreds of fans swarmed to the 2019 West Virginia Pop Culture and Comic Book Convention at Mylan Park on Saturday and Sunday to celebrate pop culture, cosplay and fandom.

"We don't have anything else like [this convention]," said Jon Hayes, PopCon's founder. It's very special to us. [My favorite part] is seeing the kids' interactions with their favorite characters."

People of all ages strolled around the convention dressed up, or cosplayed, as popular characters such as Captain Jack Sparrow, Harley Quinn, Steve Harrington and Beetlejuice. Several competed in the cosplay contest.

"[My costume] was a collaborative effort between my sister and I," said Aaron Jones, a Captain Jack Sparrow cosplayer from Mannington, West Virginia. "It was just rolls of fabric when we got started, but we patterned it out, we sewed it together and between me and her, we made this happen."

Jones also cosplays as Luke Skywalker, Obi Wan Kenobi, Michael Myers and several other characters.

"I love doing this for the kids," Jones said. "I love coming out [to conventions] and it makes people's day. That's what this is all about."

The winner of the cosplay contest was Dakota Riblett, who dressed as Obi Wan Kenobi in one of his outfits from the 2003 Clone Wars series. The outfit was handmade and took six months to complete.

"It all started with some cheap plastic," said Riblett, a first-time cosplayer from Fairmont. "While I was redoing my grandmother's house, I noticed some of the curtains were kind of the color of the cape [Obi Wan] wears."

Those in attendance could play video games, take pictures with those in costume and explore the various stations on the convention floor.

PHOTO BY BRITTANY BELCHER

WV PopCon goers look through the Pixels & Stitches booth where they can buy magnets, pictures and other similar products.

For more photos of WV PopCon, see page 4

President Gee discusses pedestrian safety, privatization, University finances and more

BY DOUGLAS SOULE AND ALAYNA FULLER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND NEWS EDITOR

WVU President E. Gordon Gee visited the Daily Athenaeum newsroom on Thursday to take questions from the staff. Below are some of the topics discussed.

Pedestrian safety

Gee said the University has put emphasis on safety this academic year; he pointed to a safety website that had recently been created (safety.wvu.edu).

"We have a task force – I hate task forces, by the way, I just want to get to work – but we have a group of people who are working diligently to see how we can best make certain that we have those crossing areas worked out," Gee said.

"Have you ever driven around and watched the fact that students don't look at all when they cross the street?" Gee said. "It is astounding."

"They never stop; they never look," Gee said. "It's a wonder that we don't have more accidents. And we're trying to deal with that. I think that one of the things as part of our focus on safety this year is getting students to understand that they have responsibility for safety too."

"The answer is two-fold," he said. "One is that we've got a lot of efforts going on, and the second one is the fact that we need to have a lot of conversations."

Privatization

Last year, the University shifted control of its dining services to Sodexo, a French company.

"There's someone else who can do it better than us, because we're not good at everything. We're good at the education business," Gee said. "We need to think carefully about having others do it where it is a savings to us and a quality improvement for the students and those who are being served."

When asked if there are further plans for privatization, Gee said, "Probably not."

"Probably the thing we'll look at most will be public-private partnerships," Gee said, pointing to the University's residence halls. "Areas where we enter into public-private partnerships with others who will carry the financial burden to rebuild our residence halls, but they get a certain return on their money."

Looking ahead at the legislature

During the 2019 state legislative session, campus carry almost passed, much to the concern of University officials. In past years, the state has opted to slice the budget.

"We always are concerned about the legislature," Gee said.

See **Gee** page 4

PROSPECT and PRICE Creative

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WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

Monday 9/09

PARTLY CLOUDY

HIGH 79° - LOW 60°

TUESDAY 9/10

PARTLY CLOUDY

HIGH 88° - LOW 67°

WEDNESDAY 9/11

PARTLY CLOUDY

HIGH 89° - LOW 67°

CRIME REPORT

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

Sept. 04
6:45 A.M. | CLOSED
Beechurst PRT station
Suspicious person.

Sept. 04
8:36 A.M. | CLOSED
Health Science Center
Panic alarm.

Sept. 04
9:26 A.M. | IMPOUNDED
WVU Area 50
Back ticket tow.

Sept. 04
10:46 A.M. | ACTIVE
North High Street
Vehicle accident.

Sept. 03
3:00 P.M. | CHARGES FILED
WVU Student Health
Petit larceny.

Sept. 04
3:47 P.M. | CLOSED
Health Science Center
Fire Alarm.

Sept. 04
9:04 P.M. | UNFOUNDED
Summit Hall
Drug incident.

Sept. 04
21:14 P.M. | CLOSED
Boreman South
Welfare check.

Sept. 05
2:55 P.M. | ACTIVE
Fieldcrest Hall
Trespassing.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENTS

@dailyathenaeum

Lesley McNasty
@LalaMcNastyWVU

Look. I sat in the stands and watched us lose to Temple and go 3-8 Rich's first year. Do people not understand what "trust the climb" means? Yes, it was terrible, but God damn, relax. #HailWV

4:03 PM · Sep 7, 2019 · Twitter for Android

25 Retweets **283** Likes

Patrick Southern
@patricksouthern

This will sound like sour grapes, but I swear it isn't: the level of this WVU team should be seen as one hell of an indictment of Holgo. If you get eight years to build a P5 program and leave the cupboard THIS bare, you've committed coaching malpractice.

1:56 PM · Sep 7, 2019 · TweetDeck

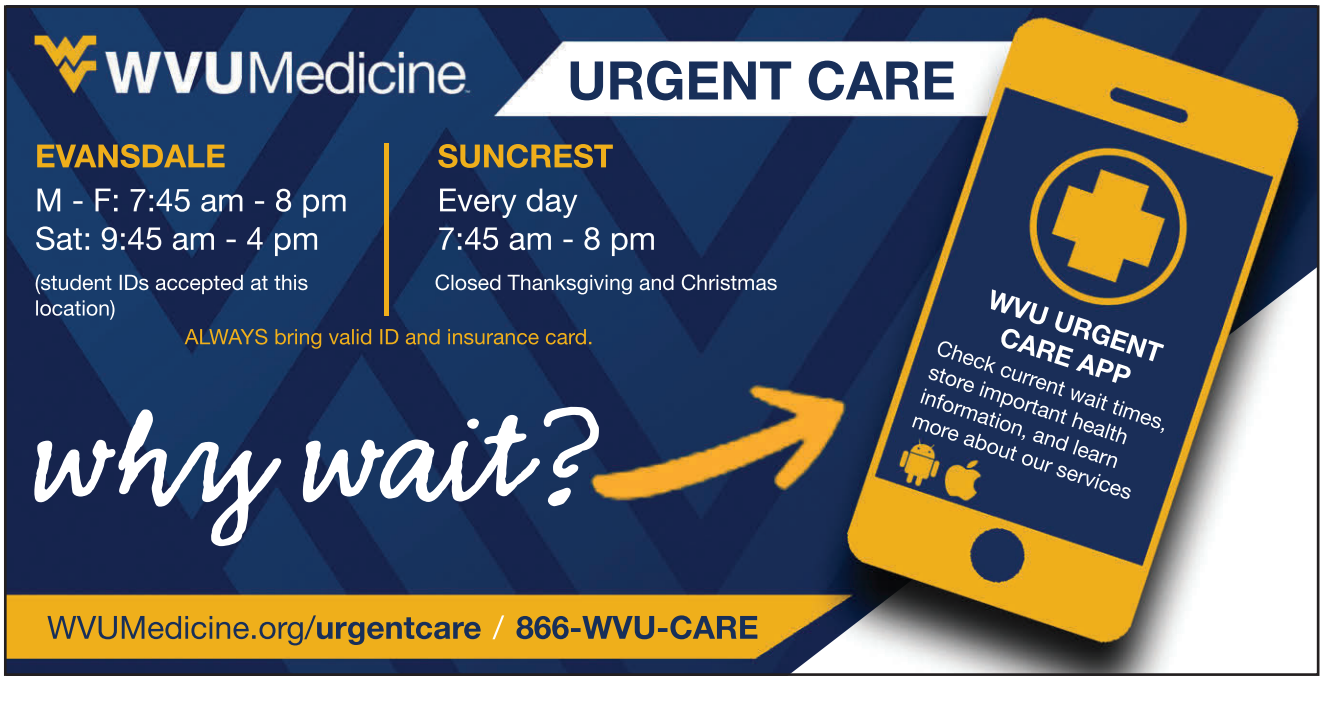
79 Retweets **414** Likes

John
@John_Pentol_

Mountaineer fans need to learn to be patient. If you truly believed Coach Brown would turn this around immediately you're living in a fantasy world. It's week two of year one for Brown. Give the man some time to build a program. In the meantime, support the team! #WVU #HailWV

1:59 PM · Sep 7, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

24 Retweets **138** Likes



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

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WVU's INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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NEWS

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WVU receives $181.4 million in research funding

BY GABRIELLA BROWN AND IRELEND VISCOUNT
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR AND STAFF WRITER

West Virginia University broke records this past fiscal year after receiving $181.4 million in research funding.

The University's emphasis on the importance of research has allowed it to not only obtain and maintain R1 status, but also draw in hundreds of research grants each year.

Fred King, vice president for research at WVU, said for departments to continue receiving funding, they must undergo a vigorous and competitive application process.

"Physics, as a department, does contribute a lot to the overall research in the University, and our funding matches that. I believe our largest impact is locally because we really do try to raise up STEM and science in general."

-Loren Anderson, associate professor of physics and astronomy

"Faculty will write a proposal to [the National Institutes of Health,] which is reviewed by a panel of peers," King said. "That panel of peers picks which proposals they recommend for funding."

King said proposals are typically sent to federal sources, including the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, NIH, Department of Agriculture, Department of Defense, NASA and the Department of Justice.

"Last year, we submitted about 1,000 proposals," King said. "Of that, about 488 were successful, which is a really good rate. Most of the agencies are 15% or below in terms of success rates."

This push for advancing research has allowed the University to build multi-million dollar world-class facilities, such as the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute, make breakthroughs in astrophysics and even contribute to the state through gas research and utilization.

The astrophysics department has been growing for the last 10 to 12 years and is now recognized not only nationally, but internationally.

"We have two large projects that, together, account for a lot of the funding," said Loren Anderson, WVU associate professor of physics and astronomy. "Both of them have to do with gravitational waves."

While the projects are still underway, Anderson said this research will lend a hand in answering many of the questions of our universe's history.

Anderson said while the project has not yet been able to detect gravitational waves, he believes they are on the brink of doing so.

"When it does, that will be a huge result," Anderson said. "The gravitational waves they are detecting are from massive cores of galaxies that are colliding. They can learn a lot about the history of the universe and galaxy formation from the gravitational waves they know they can detect."

Beyond the work done in the lab, Anderson said the biggest impact the astrophysics department has had is on the local community.

"Physics as a department does contribute a lot to the overall research in the University, and our funding matches that," Anderson said. "I believe our largest impact is locally because we really do try to raise up STEM and science in general."

While research developments on campus have left an impact on the University, on the country and throughout the world, King said every finding has left an impact on the state.

"All the research we do in one way or another is tied back to West Virginia," King said. "Either through the unique facilities we have here, whether it is the Green Bank Astronomy Observatory, the National Energy Technology Laboratory or the Health Sciences Center, [or] really thinking about what are the impacts on day to day life in West Virginia."

Rabid cat attacks two residents in Suncrest

BY ALAYNA FULLER
NEWS EDITOR

A cat that attacked two Suncrest residents in two separate incidents last week has tested positive for rabies.

Both the residents were attacked on Legion Street and are now undergoing post-exposure rabies prophylaxis treatments, according to a Monongalia County Health Department (MCHD) press release.

The rabid cat interacted with a Legion Street area cat colony and by state law, all the cats must be collected.

"Rabies is spread through saliva. So if the cats are eating out of the same bowl and drinking out of the same water trough, not to mention cats fighting, the chance of rabies being spread in this colony are really high."

-Lee Smith, executive director and county health officer, Monongalia County Health Department

"Rabies is spread through saliva," said Dr. Lee Smith, executive director and county health officer at the Monongalia County Health Department in the release. "So if the cats are eating out of the same bowl and drinking out of the same water trough, not to mention cat fighting, the chance of rabies being spread in this colony is really high."

If there is no documented proof that the rabid cat has been vaccinated for rabies, it will be quarantined in a double cage with no human or animal contact for six months if someone is willing to pay for it, to make sure it is rabies free. Otherwise, it will be euthanized, according to the MCHD.

Residents of the Legion Street area who have cats and dogs are encouraged to watch their animals and not let them outside unattended for 45 days.

All cats, dogs and ferrets should be up to date on rabies vaccines, as per West Virginia state law. "It is not a suggestion," Dr. Smith said in the release. "It's the law."

WVU safety poles properly working

BY JHARAD LESTER
CORRESPONDENT

Some WVU students raised concerns around campus and on social media about several WVU safety poles not working. The safety poles allow students to press a button that calls for emergency help.

However, according to University Police Chief W.P. Chedester, all 29 safety poles are working.

"We check the safety poles every month," Chedester said. "The last time we checked the poles was Aug. 15."

Chedester said this year is the first year that anyone has asked him whether the safety poles are functioning properly. He also said that it's probable that these claims are rumors that started through social media, ultimately circulating throughout the campus.

"If anyone has a question concerning safety on campus, I don't have any problem with them calling," Chedester said. "I care about students' safety, so please let us know. It's good for us all to maintain a safe environment on campus."

THE DA SPORTS

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WV PopCon brings together community based on fandom

PHOTO BY BRITTANY BELCHER

WV PopCon goers sit and paint figurines with friends.

PHOTO BY BRITTANY BELCHER

This cosplayer's costume and smile definitely lit up the room at WV PopCon.

PHOTO BY BRITTANY BELCHER

Westwood Middle School's robotics team, SteamBotics, demonstrates its robots. Pictured to the left is team captain, Jade Mayle; accompanied by Abigail Mallow and Josie Tantai.

PHOTO BY BRITTANY BELCHER

A booth at WV PopCon with many eye-catching coasters, posters and pictures.

PHOTO BY BRITTANY BELCHER

Cartridges Galore is one of many examples of vendors that were set up and selling gaming systems, games, figurings and much more.

Gee

Continued from page 1

"We always want to make sure our funding is stable and make certain we continue to be deregulated," Gee said.

"We don't have one particular big agenda," Gee said. "Obviously, we are absolutely opposed to campus carry."

University finances

Gee said that despite a drop in state funding from when he first became president of WVU to now, the University is financially strong this year.

"When I was here the first time around in 1980 as the president, 70 % of our budget came from the state, about 12 or 13 [%] comes from the state now," Gee said. "What that really says is the fact that public universities have had real deterioration in terms of their state support, and so what that requires us to do, to be financially strong, is for us to make a lot of choices to also make sure that we're always focusing on increasing quality."

Gee said it's easy to balance the budget on the backs of students, faculty or others by allowing quality to deteriorate, but that it's a short-term gain and a long-term disaster.

Inclusivity on campus

When asked about how the University demonstrates inclusivity, Gee said, "We have an Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, [and] we are a very diverse institution. We have students from 55 counties, 50 states, 115 countries that speak 100 different languages. Just by the very nature of where we are, we have students from all over the world and all different kinds of backgrounds."

Gee said that as a land grant university, WVU is really living up to a relentless charge to be a place to build communities and opportunities.

"This is an important part of where we are," he said. "You can't have inclusion without diversity, but if you have diversity without any inclusion, then why are we here."

Gee said he wants to make sure everyone is cared for in the University.

He also said that a big part of being a diverse university is interacting with many different people and having absolute, free speech.

"Why would we have students from all over the world unless we find a way for them to be included and for us to learn from them," he said. "If you're from Mingo County and you never meet a kid from Saudi Arabia, or you don't have any kind of contact, and yet they're part of where we are right here, that, I think, is unhealthy."

He said that a university needs to be a place of absolute, unadulterated free speech that welcomes all ideas.

"If we're diverse without inclusion then we're not meeting our goals, and I think that the issue is that the most important learning experiences that occur on university campuses, they're not in the classroom, they're outside."

THE DA For more news updates throughout the week, follow the Daily Athenaeum on Facebook

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464 Virginia Ave. www.morgantowncob.org

CULTURE

No more instant ramen, go to Yama

A refuge with its own take on a successful traditional style

RYAN MAIDEN
FOOD CRITIC

PHOTO BY RYAN MAIDEN

Yama's miso ramen.

PHOTO BY RYAN MAIDEN

Yama's chicken curry.

It's a bold step to ignore the classic strategy of hanging up paper lanterns, putting down wooden dividers and calling your eatery an authentic Japanese restaurant. Even bolder still is creating a menu that isn't solely focused on sushi. Yama, a hole-in-the-wall establishment on High Street, does both and still manages to win the approval of this critic.

While the average diner might expect a scarcely populated lunch, Yama will quickly surprise you. The simplistic, and somewhat drab decor does nothing to dissuade what seems like a cult following at one of the only really authentic Japanese restaurants you'll find in Morgantown. Though seating is quite limited in such a small place, you'll never feel cramped or claustrophobic. The feeling is familial, even homey. With bookshelves filled with an array of different manga and a television playing Japanese game shows, you'll never be in want of entertainment either.

Ordering is simple, just step up to the counter and tell them what you want. Careful, though; while having a variety of dishes, Yama doesn't carry the largest selection of soft drinks, but you can try some of the fresh teas or imported sodas.

I was lucky enough to be advised by a usual Yama customer, going for the appetizing miso ramen, and if I were to call it amazingly flavorful, perfectly seasoned and so well cooked as to warm the bones of this overworked college student, it would be an understatement. The wait times for your food are also extraordinarily quick. Now I wouldn't call myself an expert in Japanese cuisine, but the thick noodles accompanied by bean sprouts, pork and other vegetables in a miso broth prove to be a perfect lunch-time meal.

Other dining options include a variety of noodles, rice bowls, sushi and salads with the shrimp tempura being the next dish I'm dying to try. For vegetarians, there is an ample selection of cuisine that can be made to suit your needs.

Yama is located at 387 ½ High St. (entrance on Fayette Street) and is open from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday and 12 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. Saturdays and closed Sundays.

THE DA

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THE DA
WVU's INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

WVU COLISEUM PARKING NOTICE

Due to tomorrow night's **Avett Brothers concert,** parking at the WVU Coliseum will be extremely limited on Tuesday.

Students who have Tuesday classes on the Evansdale campus may park for free in the Coliseum lots near the Natatorium and Arboretum until 5pm.

Short-term parking is available at a variety of short-term lots on the Evansdale campus, including the Alumni Center ST8, Water Tower lot ST6 by Blaney House, ST1 off of Patteson Dr, ST9 behind the Creative Arts Center, University Place parking garage on University Ave and Mountaineer Station on Van Voorhis Rd.

THE COLISEUM LOT WILL OPEN TO EVENT PARKING AT 5PM.

Thank you for your cooperation

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OPINION

Staff Contributions
danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu

Staff Shorts

Staff Shorts are tidbit writings by our editorial board. They're mostly meant to be light-hearted, but we sometimes touch on more serious, important topics. They aim to express the many student voices of the University.

DA staff debates the fate of iconic Morgantown theater

Warner Theatre should be knocked down

The Warner Theatre has been closed for years. The last activity the theater experienced was the doors being boarded up.

It's a historic building, but it sits there on High Street, taking up space and looking ugly, deteriorating by the day. How is it contributing to the city in any way? No matter how old it is, it's currently vacant and an eye sore.

It's taking up a large space that could contribute to any number of businesses that would be productive to the Morgantown economy and community. The past should not hold back the future. The Warner Theatre should be demolished.

Historic Warner Theatre has been closed since 2010.

STAFF PHOTO

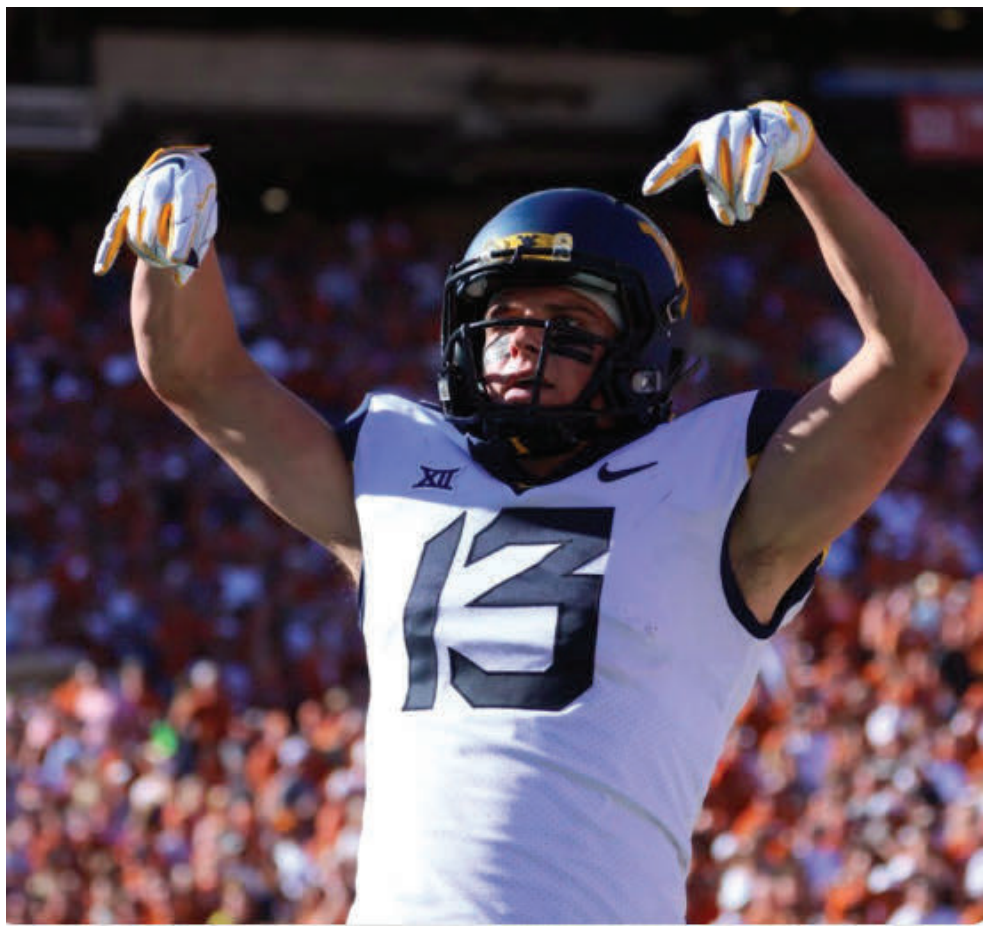
Warner Theatre should be restored — and soon

It's egregious that the Warner Theatre has been closed since 2010.

Any current student who has parents, grandparents or even great-grandparents that have gone to WVU only has to ask their ancestors about their experiences at the theater to understand the far-reaching importance it has had on Morgantown.

It not only should be preserved. It should be revitalized, again becoming an important fixture of Morgantown. Having a movie theater right on High Street is awesome, whether you're a WVU student or someone who has lived in Morgantown for the past 70 years.

Facebook commenters weigh in on Staff Short



STAFF PHOTO

#HornsDown

Last week, we published in the paper and online a staff short about how the horns down taunt is being overused by WVU fans. "Overusing horns down will dilute its effect," it was titled. Here is what some Facebook commenters thought about the article. The text of the comments has not been modified.

No it won't. OU has been doing it for decades. And it always annoys Texas fans - which is the desired result.

The use of "horns down" should be reserved for Mountaineer wins over the Longhorns. Let's be sure we can use "horns down" this year.

HORNS DOWN!!!!!!!! S*<T PITT!!!!!

Agreed. It's making the fanbase look obsessed and weird.

24/7 365 days out of the year... every 24 hours and every 60 mins of those 60 seconds we breathe. It's EAT S#{T Pitt and Horns DOWN.

Horns down has been OU's thing for decades mainly because they're not creative or smart enough to come up with their own sign.

This is like saying that the eat shit Pitt chant shouldn't be used every time sweet Caroline is played!!!! Mountaineers hate the Longhorns. I say go ahead and throw the horns down.

Wvu definitely did not invent it, although some think they did

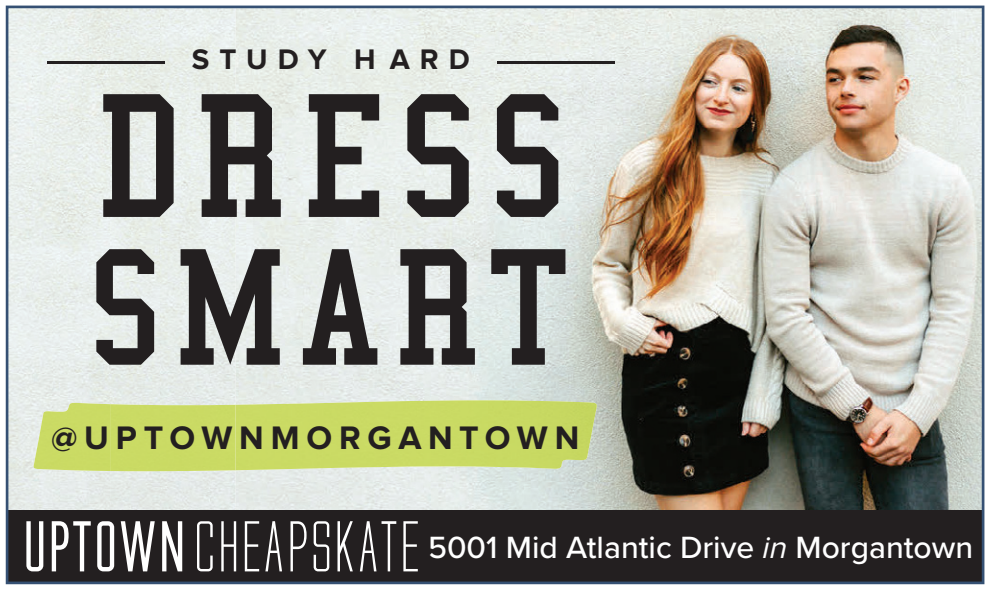
Staff- Worry about yourselves, let the fans do what they do.

Budding rivalry? Please. We are not rivals until the feeling is mutual. To Texas, we are a blip on the screen at this point. If we can compete with them continuously at a high level like OU, we may become hated but beating them when they are down doesn't create a rivalry.

Such party poopers...

Horns down is incredibly annoying.

WRONG...it's great every single time



PET OF THE DAY

RIO VERDE
Authentic Mexican Food

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY KELLI GESWEIN

Rose and Abbi are 4-year-old sisters who love to hike and go boating on canoes, kayaks and SUPs!

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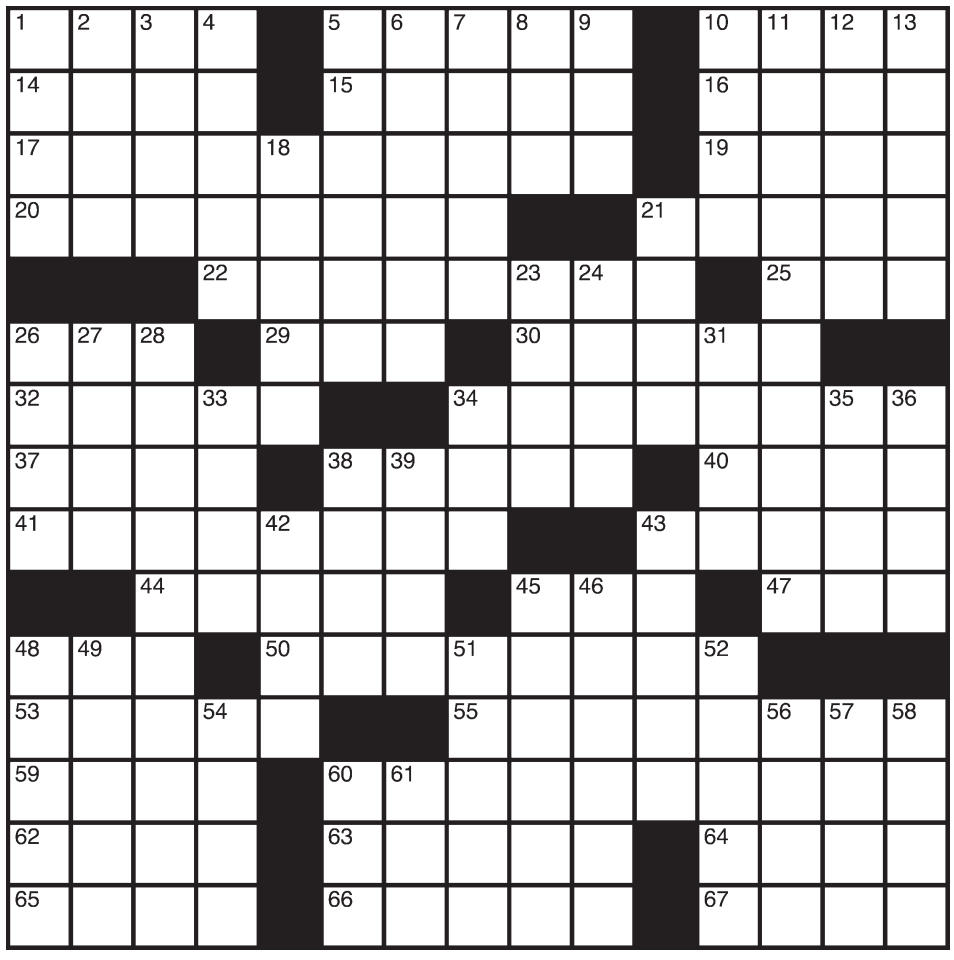

Across
1 Isla surrounder
5 Real cutup
10 Italian volcano
14 TV series that had flashbacks, flash-forwards and multiple timelines
15 Kemper of "The Office"
16 Truant GI
17 *Brain trust member
19 Meander
20 Afflicted with illness, say
21 Gastric woe
22 *Nixon's cocker spaniel
25 PC key
26 Reel Big Fish music genre
29 Pigs out (on)
30 Flying frenemy of Godzilla
32 "Beaten" ways
34 One who is rotten to the core?
37 Quartet member
38 *Influential record company named for co-founding brothers Leonard and Phil
40 Serb or Croat
41 Went over again and again
43 Razz
44 Geometric given
45 Ox tail?
47 Hankering
48 Toward the stern
50 *Playful question spoiled by caller ID
53 2010 Supreme Court appointee
55 Shows derision for
59 Boast
60 *The USS Iowa, e.g.
62 Toon mail-order company
63 Be of use to
64 Sty sound
65 Swamp stalk
66 "Aw, fudge!"
67 Corddry of TV's "Mom"

Down
1 Help for the needy
2 Animal on the Cubs' 2016 World Series rings
3 Space Race inits.
4 Room often with a slanted ceiling
5 Pulled quickly
6 Early Mexicans
7 "Hogan's Heroes" colonel
8 German article
9 Crimson, e.g.
10 Bluegrass legend Scruggs
11 With 28-Down, words to a cheater ... or an honest hint to the answers to starred clues
12 Original
13 At the ready
18 Heart sonograms, familiarly
21 Food safety agcy.
23 Paleozoic and Cenozoic
24 Retina cells
26 Exchange barbs
27 Curly cabbage
28 See 11-Down
31 Church area
33 The Cardiff Giant, notably
34 __ Bath & Beyond
35 Zap with a beam
36 Equally matched
38 __ En-lai
39 Iron-rich blood pigment
42 Portent
43 Giggly sound
45 "Don't you agree?"
46 Resides
48 1556-1605 Mogul emperor
49 Screwball comedy
51 Celestial red giant
52 Director Welles
54 Like good Scotch
56 LaBeouf of "Transformers" films
57 Informal contraction
58 Toll rd.
60 Prohibition
61 "__ Maria"

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SUDOKU

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Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit ***www.sudoku.org.uk***

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Level 1 2 3 **4**

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

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Mountaineers looking for answers to solve run game blues

BY JARED SERRE
SPORTS EDITOR

PHOTO BY JARED SERRE

Through two games, Alec Sinkfield is the Mountaineers' leading rusher with 30 yards.

Through the season's first two weeks, the West Virginia football team has gained 64 total rushing yards. Let's put that into perspective.

On Saturday against Missouri, WVU was out-rushed by the Tigers by more than 200 yards. Redshirt sophomore Alec Sinkfield — listed as third on the depth chart at the running back position — led the team with 27 rushing yards.

"Not watching the film, I just know it was bad," offensive coordinator Matt Moore said after the game. "I don't know exactly what it was, but it was bad."

Around the same time that the Mountaineers were being pummeled in a 38-7 rout, Michigan running back Zach Charbonnet was putting the finishing touches on a solo 100-yard rushing performance against Army.

Jonathan Taylor, the starting running back for the Wisconsin Badgers, scampered for 102 yards against Central Michigan.

Against Charlotte, Appalachian State running back Darrynton Evans rushed for 234 total yards, adding three touchdowns to boot.

Yet, something just isn't clicking for the Mountaineers' run game.

"We're a team right now that really struggles to run the ball," West Virginia head coach Neal Brown said. "If you really struggle to run the ball, then [the defense] can pin their ears back and come."

So far this season, starting running back Kennedy McKoy has rushed for a net total of 12 yards on 18 attempts. The struggles continue on down the line as second-string rusher Martell Pettaway has rushed for a mere 14 yards. Sinkfield has totaled 30 rushing yards on 10 attempts.

However, it is a challenge to pick out why exactly the run game is struggling. Another contributing factor could be the status of the offensive line.

While Brown praised left tackle Colton McKivitz following the week one matchup against James Madison, the rest of the offensive line has seen its fair share of shuffling.

Against James Madison, Josh Sills received the start at center while Chase Behrndt served on a platoon at right guard. Come week two, Behrndt received the start at center, pushing Sills over to start at right guard.

Despite the shifting, the Missouri defense was able to get in the backfield a handful of times, ending the day with 13 tackles for loss.

"Chase had gotten more consistent with his snaps and that was my biggest worry, so we put Josh back at guard hoping we could get more movement," Moore said. "[We're] trying to get answers. You can't just keep doing the same thing and expect something different to happen. You've got to change things up."

For Brown however, these are the growing pains of "trusting the climb."

"We're a work in progress," Brown said. "I've been saying that, really, since I got here. That's not a negative — that's what it is. That's where we're at."

Heading into next week, the Mountaineers will face another tough test as they take on NC State. The Wolfpack has allowed only 54 yards on the ground through their first two games of the season.

As other transfer QBs light up defenses, Kendall struggles at WVU

BY CODY NESPOR
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

This offseason, college football saw more player movement than it ever had before.

The NCAA transfer portal allowed players to move to new programs with ease and, most importantly, play right away without having to sit out a year. The biggest stories this offseason revolved around quarterbacks who were moving to new teams.

Former national champions Jalen Hurts and Kelly Bryant and former highly-ranked prospects Jacob Eason and Justin Fields all found new homes. While all of these quarterbacks have found early success with their new teams, WVU transfer Austin Kendall has struggled mightily through the Mountaineers' first two games.

Kendall has thrown for 397 total yards and three touchdowns with two interceptions. Against Missouri on Saturday, he completed 15 of 25 passes for 137 yards with the team's only score and two picks.

WVU head coach Neal Brown said Kendall needs to develop a sense of urgency in the pocket.

"He's gotta have a clock in his head where he understands, on a third down or a fourth down, the ball's gotta come out of his hand a little faster," Brown said. "And maybe his coaches don't need to press so early."

Kendall spent the last three years at Oklahoma serving as a backup and was in line to be the starter this season. Before that could happen however, Hurts, the former Alabama starter, announced that he was going to become a Sooner, pushing Kendall out.

So far in this young season, Hurts has looked like the best quarterback in the nation. In two Sooner victories, Hurts has completed 34 of 41 passes for 591 yards and six touchdowns. He has also ran for 223 yards and three more scores.

The quarterback that WVU got a first-hand look at Saturday, Bryant made his way to Missouri after losing the starting job at Clemson last season. Bryant threw for 150 yards and three touchdowns against the Mountaineers, bringing his season totals to 573 and five. Though the Tigers are only 1-1 on the season, many expect them to contend for their division.

PHOTO VIA MISSOURI ATHLETICS

Missouri quarterback Kelly Bryant signals the offense prior to a snap against the Mountaineers on Saturday.

Following the game, Brown said Bryant was just as impressive as he was expecting.

"I'd been down to Clemson. I'd watched him, and that's the first thing that stuck out to me, how big he was," Brown said. "He's a good player, he's a really good player. Credit to him, he played good enough to win."

Eason, who moved from Georgia to Washington, and Fields, who went from Georgia to Ohio State, both have had good starts to their seasons, as well. Both have their new teams at 2-0, and Fields has racked up 561 total yards and nine total touchdowns, while Eason has put up 511 passing yards with four scores.

When compared to other first year transfer quarterbacks around the nation, the start that Kendall has had looks even more disappointing for Mountaineer fans.

A tough test against the NC State Wolfpack at home this weekend will give Kendall and the Mountaineers another chance to make steps in the right direction.

Mountaineers looking to revamp scoring attack following opening slate of matchups

BY QUINN BURKITT
SPORTS WRITER

The West Virginia men's soccer team has totaled only three goals through as many matches this season as opposed to its seven goals through three matches last season.

It doesn't help that the Mountaineers lost their top goal scorer from last season, Joey Piatczyc, to the MLS draft. The senior led the team with a total of eight goals in his final year in the Gold and Blue.

"You don't replace Joey, he's one of the greatest to ever play at West Virginia University," WVU head coach Marlon LeBlanc said on Friday. "As a matter of fact, he's the greatest setup man in the history of West Virginia soccer... you hope to develop somebody else."

The West Virginia offensive talent is evident from its 47 total shots and 21 shots on goal through three games, but the team's ability to put the ball in the net seems to be the missing piece for a low scoring Mountaineers squad.

"You don't replace Joey, he's one of the greatest to ever play at West Virginia University. As a matter of fact, he's the greatest setup man in the history of West Virginia soccer... you hope to develop somebody else."

-Marlon LeBlanc, men's soccer head coach

LeBlanc has recalled last season's team as a motivation for this year and the ability his former team had to net the ball as a high scoring team.

"For us to score as many goals because we were in the top 10 to 15 in almost every attacking category last year was a facet of how we play, and I think these guys understand that," LeBlanc said.

West Virginia still returns some of its other top offensive threats from last season in Pascal Derwaritsch and Andres Muriel Albino, who each totaled six goals in 2018.

Ethan Shim found the back of the net for West Virginia in the 50th minute for the first goal of the season in the team's season opener against Monmouth on Aug. 30. Shim's lone goal came in a game where the Mountaineers got off a total of 18 shots with eight shots on goal.

Muriel Albino marked the Mountaineers second goal of the season when he put West Virginia on the board in the 27th minute against Wright State on Saturday. The goal was assisted by Rodrigo Robles Grajera immediately following a corner kick by Muriel Albino.

Only five minutes later in the 32nd minute, Derwaritsch found the back of the net for the second goal of the day and third of the season again following a Albino corner kick seconds before.

PHOTO BY JAMES KNABLE

A West Virginia men's soccer player attempts to keep the ball away from a Wright State player.

The Mountaineers were able to get 21 total shots off against Wright State on Friday with eight of the shots on goal. Albert Andres-Llop and Kevin Morris led the West Virginia shooting attack behind their two shots a piece.

"I still think there's areas we can be better in the final third," LeBlanc said. "Obviously, the number of shots with two goals we can probably score more, and I think we're going to need to score some more."

If the Mountaineers expect to compete in MAC conference play, they will need a stronger offensive scoring attack and various offensive threats to step into the spotlight.

Mountaineers beat Wright State 2-1 in home opener

BY JARED SERRE
SPORTS EDITOR

On its home turf for the first time this season, the No. 24 West Virginia men's soccer team dropped visiting Wright State by a final score of 2-1.

It was a strong offensive attack that helped to lift the Mountaineers ahead of the Raiders as, at the games end, WVU had outshot the Raiders 21-5.

In the game's 27th minute, West Virginia made it on the board first when senior midfielder Andres Muriel Albino found the back of the net off an assist from freshman forward Rodrigo Robles Grajera.

West Virginia (2-1-0) was able to add another goal before halftime when, in the 32nd minute, senior defender Albert Andres-Llop found Pascal Derwaritsch for a header goal.

Working from behind in the second half, Wright State (1-2-0) attempted to mount a comeback effort. They were able to join the scoreboard in the game's 71st minute when senior midfielder Stefan Rokvic booted the ball past WVU goalkeeper Steven Tekesky to shrink the deficit.

PHOTO BY JAMES KNABLE

WVU senior Ryan Kellogg takes on a Wright State defender for the ball.

Unfortunately for the Raiders, the team was only able to get off one more shot in the half, totaling five for the entire 90 minute match.

Wright State also struggled in getting its number of fouls under control as it ended the night with 26 fouls compared to the Mountaineers' eight. The two teams combined for five yellow cards throughout the night.

West Virginia is off until Tuesday, when the Charlotte 49ers come to Dick Dlesk Soccer Stadium. In the first matchup between the two teams, the opening kick will come at 7 p.m.

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Tactics, strategy important aspects of WVU cross country's preparation

BY CODY NESPOR
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

On the surface, cross country seems like fairly simple sport.

How complicated could a sport where all you do is run long distances actually be? For WVU coach Sean Cleary, cross country is as tactical and strategic as a sport can be.

Cleary is a big believer that familiarity with a particular course can really improve performance. This was evident with the team's first race of the season on Aug. 30 at the Lehigh Invitational.

The Lehigh Invitational is held at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, on the Goodman Cross Country Course, which is, coincidentally, the exact same course that the 2019 NCAA Mid-Atlantic Regional will be held at in November.

It is not a coincidence that despite the fact WVU only had five official racers at the Lehigh Invitational, Cleary took the entire team.

"We actually took the entire team, which is one of the reasons we went over to Lehigh," Cleary said. "All of those that are healthy actually worked out and ran the course a couple times, more so for practice, just to get a good feel for it when we go back in November."

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORMAN WILLS

Redshirt senior Olivia Hill runs at the Lehigh Invitational on Aug. 31. Hill led WVU finishing second overall.

Cleary believes being familiar with the course now will pay dividends when the Regional races comes around in November.

"For the next couple of months, everyone that made that trip now has the chance to keep that course fresh in their mind," Cleary said. "We're believers in visualization. They'll be thinking about that course as they go on daily runs and as they work out, all the hills and where to position themselves, all the tactical things in our sport."

"We're believers in visualization. They'll be thinking about that course as they go on daily runs and as they work out, all the hills and where to position themselves, all the tactical things in our sport."

-Sean Cleary, head coach

It will take a couple months to see if Cleary's plan works out for the Mountaineers this season, but this strategy of getting familiar with a course ahead of regionals is not exactly new for Cleary.

In each of the last three seasons, the WVU cross country team ran at least one race during the regular season at the course that the NCAA Regional race was being held.

In 2018, the Regional meet was held at Penn State University in University Park, Pennsylvania, on Nov. 9. The Mountaineers raced twice at University Park prior to the regional race: on Sept. 7 at the Spiked Shoe Invitational and on Oct. 12 at the Penn State National Open. The Mountaineers finished fifth their first time on the course that season and sixth both subsequent times.

In 2017, the NCAA Regionals were held at the Goodman course in Bethlehem, just like this season. Also like this season, WVU ran at the Lehigh Invitational on the same course to begin its season. That year, the team parlayed a first place finish in September into a seventh place finish in November.

In 2016, regionals were again at Penn State and the team followed the exact same plan it had in 2018, running in the Spiked Shoe Invitational and Penn State Open during the regular season. This time the team turned a fifth place finish the first time into two fourth place finishes.

The preparation goes beyond just this season. Redshirt senior Olivia Hill, who was one of the official racers at Lehigh, and redshirt junior Sarah Wills, who is currently recovering from an injury, have both run three official races at the Goodman Course. Hill ran a 21:33 time on the course in both 2016 and 2017, and Wills ran the course in 21:34 twice in 2017.

Cleary said he thought it was important to make sure even the young runners on the team could get familiar with the course.

"I think it's important, and we have a young team, so most of the West Virginia team has never seen that course before," Cleary said. "We just thought it was important to get over there and get a feel."

Cleary is banking on this level of familiarity to pay off come November as he hopes to get his team back into the national championship.

Office of Campus and Community Life and Alpha Phi Omega hold bell-ringing ceremony in memory of students

Friends and family of Mountaineers who have recently passed away gathered on Friday for a bell-ringing ceremony outside Oglebay Hall.

The students remembered were Makenzie Deditch, a 17-year-old high school special student student from Grafton, West Virginia, who died in an automobile accident on April 19, and Delaney Wykle, a 22-year-old nursing student, who died on July 4 in a helicopter crash in the Bahamas.

PHOTO BY TIMOTHY SHAW

Mother of Makenzie Deditch speaks to the crowd on the recent passing of her daughter.

PHOTO BY TIMOTHY SHAW

Associate Dean of Students Kim Mosby addresses those gathered during the bell- ringing ceremony.

PHOTO BY TIMOTHY SHAW

Family and friends mourn during Friday's ceremony.

PHOTO BY TIMOTHY SHAW

WVU students and family gather outside Oglebay Hall to remember fellow students who have recently passed away.

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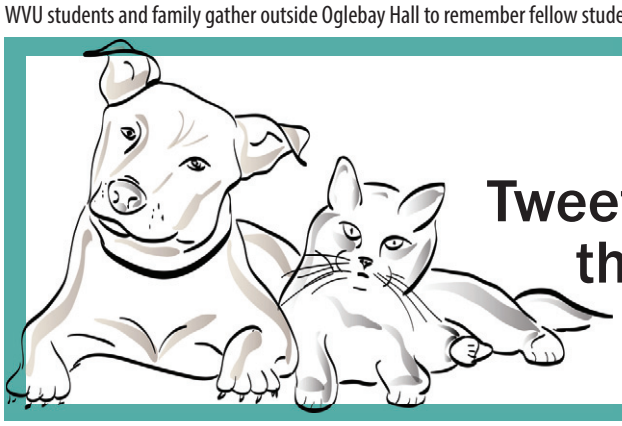

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