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WVU's Independent Student Newspaper

THURSDAY OCTOBER 14, 2021

www.thedaonline.com

How WVU players endorse biscuits and law firms

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY
SPORTS EDITOR

The commercial starts in front of a Little General convenience store with soft techno music in the background.

The scene moves inside as two broad-shouldered WVU players enter the store and walk to grab drinks.

"Dante Stills? Doug Nestor? You shop here?" asks a red-bearded customer as the players stand near the beverage refrigerators.

"Yeah man, all the time," Stills replies with a sheepish grin of someone in their first television commercial and trying not to laugh as they deliver the line.

The pair of WVU linemen make their way to the checkout counter, where Stills offers to pay for Nestor with a prominently placed Little General rewards card and the 30-second spot ends.

This is the new world of college athletics with athletes allowed to profit off of their name, image and likeness (NIL). Just a few months ago, this TV commercial wouldn't have been possible.

Over the summer, swift changes came to college athletics with a United States Supreme Court ruling in June in National Collegiate Athletic Association v. Alston and the NCAA Board of Directors adopting an NIL rule change on June 30 that went into effect on July 1.

In late July, West Virginia University signed a contract with VEEPIO to utilize its product in educating WVU student-athletes and acquiring deals for those athletes.

"The market is new," said the company's Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Ohliger. "When you have markets open up, you have to be in them. Within a year the market is going to be different and the first move or advantage is so powerful that you are helping to set the

framework for how this thing is going to operate for the next 20 or maybe 100 years."

The three co-founders of VEEPIO all played football at West Virginia: Ohliger, Najee Goode and Grant Wiley.

Goode and Wiley both played in the NFL — Goode won a Super Bowl with the Philadelphia Eagles in 2017. Ohliger's professional career took him to arena football.

However, since all three played at WVU, they have an advantage when talking to West Virginia student-athletes.

"I was literally sitting in that team room 10 years ago," Goode said. "I used to sit in those seats and have the exact same look on my face."

"Who we are, we are athletes who used to be students at West Virginia who are now doing business," Goode added. "We are a true extension of who they are."

VEEPIO is currently working with around 100 student-athletes at WVU out of the 450 West Virginia student-athletes.

The company has worked with football players Dante Stills and Doug Nester in a deal with Morgan & Morgan Law Firm with billboards in the Morgantown area that say "Size Matters."

West Virginia offensive lineman Zach Frazier recently signed a deal with Tudor's Biscuit World.

The firm also coordinated deals between WVU women's soccer players Alina Stahl, Jordan Brewster, Julianne Vallerand and Gabrielle Robinson and a Cheat Lake coffee shop.

Through a public records request, the Daily Athenaeum received the contract signed between VEEPIO and West Virginia University.

The contract does not have an exclusivity clause. This means that student-athletes at WVU who want to sign endorsement deals do not have to work with VEEPIO if they are comfortable on their own or want to work with a different endorsement



COURTESY VEEPIO

One of many endorsement deals sponsored by VEEPIO is billboards with Dante Stills pictured here for Morgan & Morgan Law Firm.

company.

The decision to be a non-exclusive contract was made by the co-founders of VEEPIO because of their goal of "doing what's best for the student-athletes." VEEPIO says they provide an educational advantage to WVU athletes by teaching them the ways of the business and working for them while orchestrating deals.

As agreed in the contract, VEEPIO caps its fee at 10% of the proceeds received by student-athletes in endorsement deals. VEEPIO has also agreed to ensure that its services and endorsement deals for WVU student-athletes comply with the West Virginia Uniform Agent Act and WVU's name, image and likeness policy.

"We're still making our way around to see each team individually to really talk to all of the students that we're here to advocate on their behalf," Ohliger said. "It was important to us that everyone hears that from us directly. We want them to get to know us because we think we have to get to know them to effectively advocate for them."

VEEPIO is focused on earning the

trust of the student-athletes when it comes to representing them in endorsement deals. So far, when meeting student-athletes, Wiley said many people do not know what to expect.

"It's a mixed bag," Wiley said. "No one knows what to expect. Some people were more willing to jump on it because no one loses anything from it. You can only gain from working with us."

The process starts with players opting in to work with VEEPIO. Then, VEEPIO works on an agreement with the players before finding endorsement deals.

If an agreement is reached with a sponsor, student-athletes will work on a campaign for the sponsor.

The campaign may include posting on Instagram, making a video, etc. Once the campaign is completed by the student-athlete, it is sent to the university to be approved for distribution. Once it is approved, VEEPIO is allowed to release the product within 72 hours.

The sponsor is given the opportunity to decide if a student-athlete will post the finished product on which social media platform. VEEPIO then

uploads the campaign to its app to allow student-athletes to own their own data.

"Our technology is integrated with our own mobile app," Ohliger said. "We post that exact same campaign and its requirements into the VEEPIO mobile app. We do that because we believe all the students need to own their own data. Kind of like everyone should own their own house."

The company's co-founders act as a go-between for athletes and potential brand partners.

"When a brand comes to sponsor a student-athlete, they want to know they're getting value for their dollar," Ohliger said.

"We're going to let the brands know when they advertise here at West Virginia, not only do you get all of the football guys, but all 450 student-athletes, all 30,000 members of the student body and all 1.8 million people in the state," he added. "Remember, there are no pro teams in the state of West Virginia. It looks like it's small, but it's huge."

See Endorsement photos page 9

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CRIME REPORT

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Oct. 11 11:56 p.m. Citation Boreman South Drug Incident.	Bennett Tower Fire Alarm.
Oct. 12 12:38 a.m. Citation University Avenue Traffic Stop.	Oct. 12 2:38 p.m. Resolved University Place Hit and Run.
Oct. 12 10:16 a.m. Inactive Boreman South Destruction of Property.	Oct. 12 10:37 p.m. Warning Summit Hall Drug Incident.
Oct. 12 10:16 a.m. Investigation North Spruce Street Destruction of Property.	Oct. 12 3:37 p.m. Resolve Health Science Center Assist EMS Police.
Oct. 12 1:15 p.m. Resolved	Oct. 12 2:50 p.m. Resolved Student Health Center Welfare Check.

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SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENTS

WVU wants to be seen as a great academic institution then turns its back on Puppetry smh

2h • ~1mi 1 comments

Rip the goose my prt hit

2h • <1mi 0 comments

Replace which which with Jersey Mike's

2h • ~2mi 0 comments

will never understand why non-athletes buy wvu backpacks

2h • ~2mi 0 comments

if i don't see a mommy, sorry sign for parents weekend i'll drop out

2h • <1mi 0 comments

THE DA

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WVU's INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Did you know the DA is editorially Independent from the University?



Online classes marginally increase compared to pre-pandemic levels

BY TRENTON STRAIGHT AND
LINDSAY HAPAK
NEWS EDITOR AND CORRESPONDENT

The pandemic brought about a sudden shift away from in-person instruction, and now WVU offers more online classes than in previous years.

From fall 2018 to spring 2020, an average of 12.5% of all courses were offered online. Now that number is 15%.

But students don't seem to like it that way.

Evan Widders, associate provost for Undergraduate Education, said undergraduate students generally prefer in-person classes based on surveys sent out this past year.

"This has been a consistent refrain in many of the surveys we have done since at least 2018 and is often mentioned in relation to the number of hours our students work outside of school," Widders said.

He added that other students like having flexible schedules, which include a mix of hybrid and online classes, but the majority like being back on campus.

But, in some cases, sections of a course may only be offered online, leaving some students with no other choice.

Students once again face fees for taking online courses — \$75 per course. This cost does not apply to online degree programs, which have a separate fee.

The online student support fee was suspended this past academic year due to the pandemic.



PHOTO BY MALIA RICHARDSON

WVU students on the Evansdale campus on Friday Sept. 3rd 2021.

Widders said that WVU will likely continue to see a slight increase in online courses offered to students, due to accommodations made available to faculty and students.

"Between those two factors, I would guess that our online offerings will remain slightly elevated over where they have been in the past and that we would be satisfied to remain in this range over the next year," Widders said. "As always, we will continue to monitor our courses closely and adjust as necessary."

The proportion of university students nationwide who took courses online during the pandemic is much higher than the Department of Education originally estimated.

This month, Inside Higher Ed estimated that over half of all students took at least one online class in 2019-2020.

In fall 2020, WVU offered over 4,000 online courses to students, a 423% increase from the previous semester.

Widders said there are a few reasons for the increase in online classes over the previous years.

"One of the most important reasons is faculty accommodations, meaning faculty who have gone for health reasons have gotten approval to teach online," said Widders. "We expect that hopefully, as COVID declines, a lot of those will probably go away."

He said many of the faculty continue to teach on-

line, which resulted in additional online classes for the fall semester.

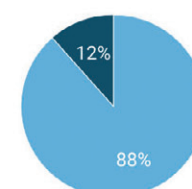
The University also implemented new technology in classrooms to improve online resources and tools. Most classrooms have been updated so professors can livestream or take video recordings of lectures.

"We want students to be able to have the freedom to take online classes when it helps them to do everything else that's going on in their lives," said Widders. "On the other hand, we never want to see a return to the COVID situation where almost all our classes are online. We don't think that's the way this institution should go."

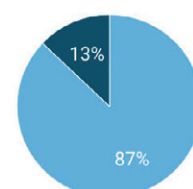
WVU sees slight increase in online classes compared to pre-pandemic years

Proportion of online classes compared to in-person classes at WVU, fall 2018 to fall 2021

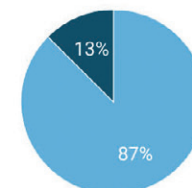
■ In-person ■ Online



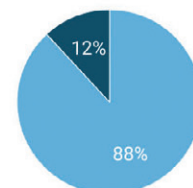
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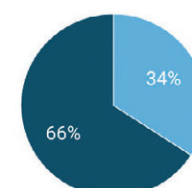
Spring 2019



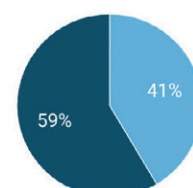
Fall 2019



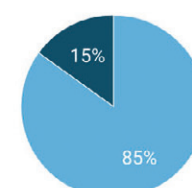
Spring 2020



Fall 2020



Spring 2021



Fall 2021

Chart: Trenton Straight • Source: West Virginia University • Created with Datawrapper

Local reverend speaks out against conversion therapy

BY LUKE BLAIN
CORRESPONDENT

The Morgantown City Council is considering a ban on conversion therapy, the pseudoscientific practice of attempting to change someone's sexuality that has been widely discredited by medical professionals.

With the council expected to vote on the ban next week, one Morgantown pastor is speaking out in favor of the legislation.

"What we can and should be doing is advocating for just and good policies that promote the common good, especially when we have LGBTQ members and we want to



COURTESY FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Rev. Zac Morton of First Presbyterian Church in Morgantown.

make sure that we are a part of movements that protect those most vulnerable people," Rev. Zac Morton of First Presbyterian Church said in an interview. "I can't think of many

more vulnerable folks other than our LGBTQ youth here in Appalachia."

He also attended a recent council meeting to express his church's feelings on the bill.

"As a representative of my church and the congregation that I serve that we certainly support and encourage you to move the bill forward to a first read," Morton said.

The bill did get pushed to a first reading and passed unanimously 7-0.

Morgantown would become the second city in West Virginia to ban conversion therapy. Charleston passed similar legislation in August banning the use of the practice on minors.

Morton has already been active in advocating to ban conversion therapy. He worked with "50 Bills 50 States," an organization that wants to get bills banning conversion therapy passed in all 50 states.

Morton says that First Presbyterian Church is an "open and affirming congregation" and has members of the LGBTQ community in leadership roles within the church.

About 10 years ago, First Presbyterian Church adopted an affirming mission statement which reflects their purpose and goals as a church. Soon after that, they publicly announced that they were open and affirming to LGBTQ individuals.

First Presbyterian Church has been active in community efforts to support the LGBTQ community. They have partnered with various organizations with similar interests, such as Morgantown Pride, Fairness West Virginia, and the WVU LGBTQ Center.

Morton emphasized the church's efforts to make sure LGBTQ members feel included and supported.

"Every church will say that everyone is welcome, but not every church kind of really means that, you know, without placing some sort of pressure to change or to shame folks," Morton said.

Morton said that much harm has been done by religious organizations toward LGBTQ individuals, but he hopes to help work against that trend.

"Our church is open and affirming because of who we understand Jesus to be," Morton said.

A vote on final approval for the bill is expected to take place on Oct. 19.

WVU professor's event promoting healthy choices for kids runs again

BY TY MCCLUNG
CORRESPONDENT

After over a year of cancellation due to the pandemic, Get Moving! WV held its World of Sports event Tuesday evening at the WVU Rec Center fields.

Though the event had a low turnout of children who pre-registered, Elizabeth Oppe, WVU professor and founder of Get Moving! WV, and her team encouraged passing students to participate in the activities and learn more about leading an active lifestyle.

"We want to promote physical activity and healthy lifestyles for children in the Mountain State," said Oppe.

Many club sports were present at the event including Men's and Women's Hockey, Golf, Men's and Women's Lacrosse and the Dance team.

"What we wanted to do today is expose kids to more sports than just football or basketball," Oppe said.

Sports was not the only focus of the event, as each participant was provided with nutritional recipes and tips on how to live a healthy and active lifestyle.

Oppe started Get Moving in 2014, having come up with the idea a year prior.

"I got the idea in 2013 when Geno Smith was at training camp for the New York Jets," Oppe said. "I thought why don't we invite people like him back to Morgantown because the kids idolize them, and they promote physical activity."

Many former WVU athletics stars are involved with the organization and have traveled back to Morgantown for these events. These include former WVU Football quarterback Rasheed Marshall, safety Keith Tandy and running back Quincy Wilson.

Oppe said learning West Virginia had the highest childhood obesity rate in the country at the time also inspired her to start the program. The



People participate in the Tuesday Get Moving! event.

state is currently ranked second in the country with just over 20% of the childhood population considered obese.

Beginning that spring, Oppe began holding the annual event until the pandemic hit. She was forced to cancel

both the 2020 and 2021 Get Moving events.

When asked about the frequency of community outreach events, Beckie Boyd, the account executive for Get Moving, said, "We try to do at least one per semester."

PHOTOS BY GUS SCHLOMER

Get Moving would typically hold the Worldwide Day of Play event in the spring. Boyd said they have not decided whether the event will take place due to the pandemic.

"You pivot and move with COVID," Oppe said when



asked how events have been affected by the pandemic.

Attendance at these events vary, according to Oppe. The smaller events can gather around 40 kids at the most, while the larger events can host a few hundred participants.

The group also has an event planned this Friday, at the Shack Neighborhood House, in Pursglove, West Virginia. So far 40 students are registered to participate.



WEAR PINK

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women in the United States and remains the second leading cause of cancer-related death overall among women. We encourage all females to have yearly gynecology visits to establish care.

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The best pumpkin picking spots near Morgantown

BY MARGARET RYMER
CORRESPONDENT

With Halloween right around the corner, pumpkin picking season is here. Without a lot of options for this festive activity in the Morgantown area, Kenzie Kukla, a senior marketing major, highlights some of the best places.

"I always go pumpkin picking because you get to find some really cool shapes and colors, which you can't find at the grocery store," Kukla said.

Most of the patches near Morgantown are small but have ample amounts of pumpkins for picking. Duda's Farm, located in Brownsville, Pennsylvania, is the biggest pumpkin patch in the area and offers a variety of seasonal fun.

Not only does Duda's have a sizable pumpkin patch, but they also have a corn maze, slides for children and hayrides. Admission into the farm

includes all this, making this location great for families and friend groups.

Another place that's in Morgantown is the Black Cat Pumpkin Patch. Open on the weekends, this patch allows you to buy by the "wagon" or just individual pumpkins.

"This was my favorite patch in Morgantown because the decorations were cute and I found some really good pumpkins for jack o'lanterns here," Kukla said.

With the Black Cat Pumpkin Patch being here in Morgantown, this is a great option for students looking for something spooky to do on the weekends leading up to Halloween. They also have Halloween-themed mums for decorating needs.

Another place to find pumpkins in Morgantown is the right down the road from the Downtown Campus at the Morgantown Farmers Market. While people can't necessarily pick their own pumpkins,

vendors like Mountain Harvest Farm provide pumpkins of different shapes, sizes and colors.

Located on Spruce Street and run on Saturday mornings, the farmers market is the perfect place for students looking to decorate their dorms or apartments with pumpkins, as they can walk to the market from campus.

It's hard to say exactly why there are so few pumpkin patches near Morgantown, as pumpkins can virtually grow anywhere with proper tending. However, as pumpkin vines need a large space to spread out and grow, the likely reason is that farmers don't have the room and choose to plant other things instead.

Despite the limited options, students can still find Halloween fun in town, as all the places mentioned will be open until Halloween. And pumpkins at the farmers market will continue to be sold through the fall season.

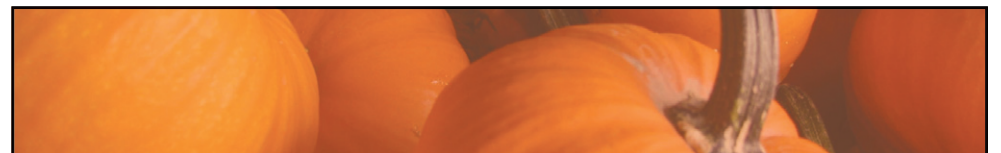


PHOTO COURTESY WIKICOMMONS

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Encore! WVU gives puppetry program second chance with strings attached

LARA BONATESTA
CULTURE EDITOR

After its future seemed dim, the WVU puppetry program has been given a second chance by the University to prove itself.

The bachelor's degree in puppetry had been recommended for discontinuation by the Provost's Office but was granted an appeal and will continue for at least another two years.

After the initial announcement that the program was on the chopping block, there was a large outcry from alumni and supporters of the program. An online petition gathered over 2,500 signatures.

"It's a really wonderful thing," said Mary McClung, professor of costume design and puppetry, about the program's second chance.

During this probation period, the puppetry program will work with the Provost's Office and develop a program improvement plan. The move comes as part of



McClung with students in 2010.

ongoing academic transformation efforts aimed at attracting new students to the University.

The puppetry program has been around for over 30 years beginning as an area of emphasis and eventually becoming a major. It's one of

just two such programs in the nation.

Located on the 4th floor of the CAC, there is a small art studio that is unlike any other room on campus. The puppetry studio is lined wall to wall with puppets of different shapes, sizes and colors.

This is McClung's domain as she oversees puppetry majors and even some non-majors as they work on mastering the art form.

"There's something about a live performance that really engages people," said McClung. "If you see a pup-

pet walking down the hall on somebody's hand, you're instantly not thinking about anything but the relationship and the beautiful thing that it is and the character, you know? And that doesn't change from when you're a little kid to when you're an adult."

For McClung, the second chance for the puppetry program means it's time to "step back" and make a plan to expand the program as well as to increase enrollment.

McClung said the puppetry program will "make a plan on how we're going to increase enrollment, how we're going to maybe have some of our faculty and other faculty in the school theme dances help support it."

The puppetry program currently has seven students, but McClung said that there are more that are looking at the program.

"I think it's because there's been a resurgence of Henson's shows," McClung said, "The dark crystal came back and did another series, they

just put out another Gonzo Christmas."

McClung also pointed to popular Broadway shows such as The Lion King as another source of inspiration for aspiring puppetry students.

Over the next two years, the puppetry program will have to prove its relevance to the University.

It currently does a variety of shows including children's shows and more serious projects.

McClung added that the puppetry program also travels around West Virginia to "bring puppetry to students who have never seen any live theatre."

But while many of the puppetry shows are for children, McClung said that the art form can be for adults as well.

"You can do adult puppetry as well," McClung said. "Doesn't have to be a goofy googly-eyed thing, it can be a very serious thing to talk about and to tell stories about serious subjects."

Bingeing at Benji's: New Sunnyside restaurant delivers cajun cuisine and American hybrid food

BY LADIMIR GARCIA
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

Benji's Sunnyside Seafood Bar and Grill is one of the newest restaurants to appear steps away from the WVU downtown campus, whose owners are looking to serve unique items to the Morgantown area.

The owners, Ke'Shawn Ramsey and Daniel Weese, originally met each other by working at the Nemacolin Resort in Farmington, PA.

From there they decided they wanted to bring their own unique set of foods to students at WVU and to those in the surrounding area.

"We decided that it'd be a good idea to go in together and bring in some Cajun food, and American hybrid food to students and to the population here in Morgan-



GRAPHIC COURTESY FACEBOOK

town and the surrounding area," Weese said.

Weese is also a Morgantown native and WVU alum

who graduated from the University in 2012, and even worked with the university in his past.

He emphasized that Benji's is about bringing positivity in the local area and providing unique foods.

"We like to make good food and make people happy," Weese said. "Keep it fun, keep it light, but also bring some unique items to the area too, that a lot of people haven't seen like the Cajun boils and wagyu burgers, and we also do hand cut fry baskets."

Weese said some of their most popular items were their wagyu burgers, in house pulled pork and old bay lump crab fries.

Besides being right next to campus, Benji's has also been involved with University groups like the Mountaineer Maniacs. Weese also

added that they were also looking forward to possibly having Mountie Bounty for WVU students.

When it came to future events, Weese said that they are planning for a Halloween party.

"We're going to decorate the place and we're probably gonna sell some food. And have a buffet or something like that, and make some live music," Weese said.

Some services that Benji's also provides are catering and carry out. Weese also added that they provide delivery services through Grubhub.

Weese said their catering services are available for tailgates as well.

He added that they were looking forward to serving the area for a long time. They are excited to serve those in Morgantown and those who

come out of town for their unique cajun food.

"We are looking forward to actually serve the area for a very long time, just make quality high quality food at a reasonable price," Weese said.

Benji's is located 2001 University Ave and their catering number is 304-241-4974.

Open Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12 a.m., and Sunday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.

OPINION

WVU has a parking price problem

BY HALEY COCHRAN
OPINION WRITER

Students hate to pay outrageous amounts for parking. As a student worker myself, I understand that trying to pay for parking in addition to living expenses and school is a pain.

WVU should make a parking garage strictly dedicated to students, and those students should be able to give whatever they want. Call it a loose change garage.

Sure, the University may have the parking in the Mountainlair, or the Evansdale Crossing, but many cannot afford this everyday. Some students are struggling, whether that be paying for school, or paying their rent and bills.

Currently, the parking in the Mountainlair is \$1.50 for an hour. Imagine working a six hour shift. That is about \$9.00 each day. This adds

up quickly, amounting easily to several hundred dollars a year.

Stress eats at the minds of the college-aged generation. These financial concerns are tethered to further academic and social repercussions.

Students living off campus, specifically, are plagued with worry about where to park to get to their classes or student organizations in a timely manner, without having to spend their life savings on the ability to attend. At WVU especially, this is a concern because of the spread-out nature of the campus.

WVU parking doesn't have to be free, but they could provide a more affordable alternative. Most people have loose change floating around their car. If everyone would pay what they could when they could to a new University parking garage, the minds and wallets of students would benefit.

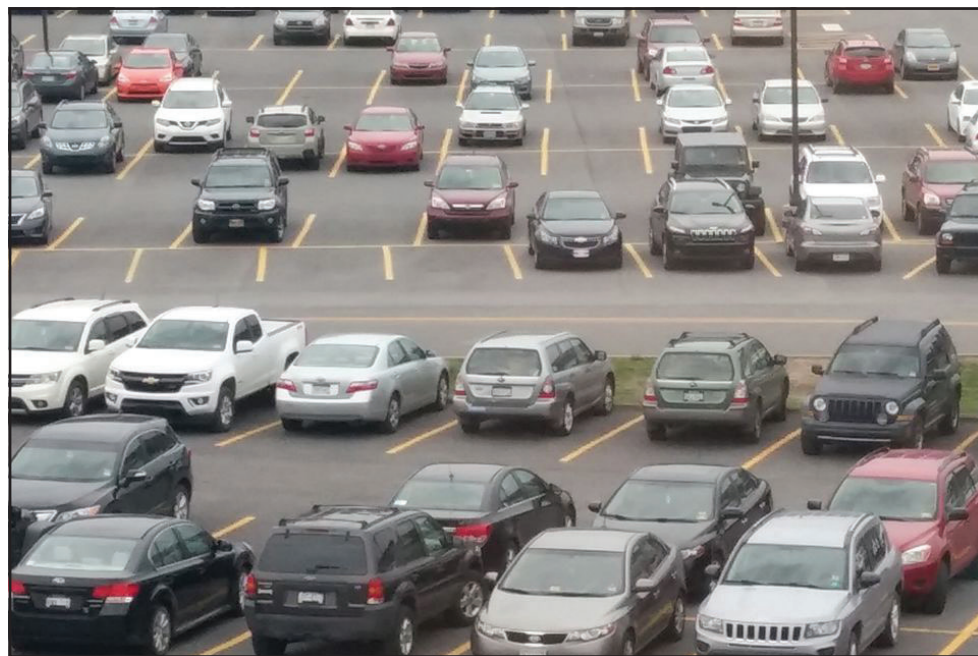
According to WVU Trans-

portation, the campus has based its rates for parking on the rate of local areas within Morgantown. The intention was to make parking affordable for students, but this intention is overshadowed by the desire for convenience on behalf of the University.

An important flaw to note: the University's partnership with ParkMobile in recent years has raised parking rates. Although the University now offers paying for parking with credit cards because of the ParkMobile app, convenience did not come without a cost.

Permit parking at WVU is not always favorable either. It is not uncommon for an undergraduate student to have a parking space by the Law School, requiring them to walk a mile to reach their vehicle.

At Marshall University, the parking permits differ. Permits for the whole year are only \$170, and students are



COURTESY WVU PHOTO

A WVU parking lot.

not confined to a single lot. At WVU, it costs at least \$252 per year to park your car in a gravel lot. Prices raise significantly with paved or covered spaces.

ered spaces.

We, as students, have the ability to voice our concerns and enact change. Parking at WVU is not simple, but the

solution is. If West Virginia University would add a loose change parking garage, students campus-wide would benefit.

Before crying woke, learn the facts about Christopher Columbus

SUBMITTED BY MAX FLOMEN

This Monday brings us to yet another round of controversies surrounding the impending "celebration" of Columbus Day (How does anyone actually celebrate? Play golf?). Stubborn and misguided efforts to continue the tradition of honoring Columbus come at a time when Indigenous peoples and the non-aboriginal residents of our shared hemisphere are embracing varied efforts at truth and reconciliation.

These efforts are commendable not because of the interests of partisan groups or the triumph of one "version" of history over another, but because the work grounds reconciliation in facts and calls for action on behalf of everyone. As persons who live, work, and love in this corner of the Americas, we have absolutely nothing to lose by engaging in honest, sustained conversations about the forces that brought us to the present moment. I hasten to add that empathy, truth, and forgiveness are the core principles of every major world religion.

Lest I be suspected of advancing the agenda of the "woke police," as a historian,



COURTESY PHOTO

Max Flomen, WVU history professor.

I'll confine my remarks to the cold, hard facts about Christopher Columbus, considering both the historical context that produced him as well as his individual decisions.

Born in 1451, a time when Medieval Europe was steadily losing ground to the Ottoman Empire, Columbus was more a product of his era than a radical visionary. A militant, millenarian Catholic, Columbus hoped that revitalizing European trade with East Asia would provide the resources for Christendom to recapture the Holy Land.

Regarding his chops as an explorer, learned 15th-century European geographers agreed



THE GALLERY COLLECTION/CORBIS

that the world was round, not flat, a consensus established in most cultures for several millennia. The significance of Columbus as a navigator was his expertise in crossing a vast, unknown ocean.

His actions upon arriving on the island he named Hispaniola also place him in lockstep with most of his conquistador contemporaries. Only in 1492 did Spain become a unified kingdom after centuries of conflict with the Islamic city-states of the Iberian peninsula. In encountering the native

Taino, or Arawak, peoples, Columbus emphasized human differences over similarities.

To him, the Tainos were "fit to be ordered about and made to work." Columbus' actions and return voyage in 1493 are hardly the stuff of the Sermon on the Mount. This time the newcomers arrived with lances, firearms, war horses, mastiffs, chains, and nets, which they quickly put to use killing, enslaving, and terrorizing the locals, primarily for the purposes of selling the captives and extracting tribute

in gold.

In 1495, Columbus shipped some 550 Indigenous captives to Spain for sale; other Genoese merchants were busy investing in the new Canary Islands' sugar refineries that relied on enslaved labor.

The violence and greed of Columbus and his men, exacerbated by a series of epidemics in the following thirty years, appalled many at the time, including Queen Isabella and the humanitarian theologian Bartolome de las Casas.

Finally, we come to the


connection between Columbus and the Italian-American community that he is supposed to represent.

To his death in 1506, Columbus remained convinced he had made landfall on an archipelago off the coast of Japan. Only the efforts of Amerigo Vespucci and others confirmed for Europeans that they had encountered a new and unknown (to them, at least) continent: America.

Columbus himself never set foot on the North American mainland, part of which, much later, became the United States. Italy, of course, was even further off, only becoming the unified nation-state we know today in 1871.

Stock characters—heroes and villains—are the stuff of drama, not history. Let us accept the facts about Columbus, and move toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples on the basis of mutual respect.

Dr. Max Flomen is a historian of colonial North America specializing in Native America, the Atlantic World, and comparative slavery. At WVU, he teaches a variety of courses on Early America, and works with graduate students studying Indigenous history, the Atlantic World, and the Civil War in the West.




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 - 16 In progress
 - 17 Leather worker's tool
 - 18 Mummer
 - 19 Star Trek Dr.
 - 20 Svelte
 - 22 Napping
 - 24 Less than two
 - 25 Kitty
 - 27 Card game
 - 29 River
 - 32 Funds
 - 35 Distress call
 - 36 Powdered chocolate
 - 38 Search in the dark
 - 40 Alack's partner
 - 42 Things
 - 44 Properly
 - 45 Request
 - 47 ___-Lay, chip brand
 - 49 Equal
 - 50 Back of the neck
 - 52 Snared
 - 54 Estimated time of arrival
 - 55 Rio de Janeiro
 - 56 Child
- Down**

 - 1 Parent groups
 - 2 Roar
 - 3 Restaurant
 - 4 Expression of surprise
 - 5 Period of rest, leisure, and recreation
 - 6 Branch of learning
 - 7 Teen hero
 - 8 Greek stringed instrument
 - 9 Living outdoors in temporary shelters
 - 10 College football conference (abbr.)
 - 11 South of the border crazy
 - 12 Planet orbiter
 - 13 Eye infection
 - 21 Microgram
- 23 Freudian term
 - 26 Bow
 - 28 Smart person
 - 29 Bridge fees
 - 30 Abraham's son
 - 31 Jeer
 - 32 Crazyed
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 - 34 Cleft
 - 35 Pocket
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 - 39 Sight organ
 - 41 Father
 - 43 Dark sky quality
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 - 57 Dunking cookies
 - 58 Chip
 - 60 Handout
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 - 65 Avails
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Neal Brown keeps steady after loss

'We're not at a funeral, we've just lost a couple of football games'

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY
SPORTS EDITOR

West Virginia head coach Neal Brown and the Mountaineers have earned a respite after losing three-straight games to sit in last place in the Big 12.

Despite the mistakes and losses that have curtailed the first six games of the 2021 season, Neal Brown is still optimistic for the second half of the year.

"We're not at a funeral, we've just lost a couple of football games," Neal Brown said on Tuesday. "At the midpoint of the season, we're obviously not where we want to be."

Following a 45-20 loss to Baylor on Saturday, Neal Brown said that 'everything is on the table.' On Tuesday, he elaborated on that statement, but said the focus of the program has not changed.

"When things aren't going well, you go back and reflect," Neal Brown said. "I'm not sitting here today making any big announcements or anything. What I'm going to do a lot over the next two days is listen."

"We talked a lot in our staff meeting today," Neal Brown added. "I'll meet with each of our coaches like we do every

bye week and I'll meet with a third of our football team over the next day and a half and get some thoughts and do a lot of listening. Then, I'll have a plan moving forward on Thursday on how we're not only going to attack TCU, but the next six games."

The WVU running game has not taken off this season as it was envisioned. Senior running back Leddie Brown has less than 500 rushing yards this year and the Mountaineers as a team are averaging 108.3 yards per game as a team.

That total ranks West Virginia last in the Big 12.

Neal Brown mentioned many factors to why Leddie Brown's season isn't equal to what was expected.

"The defenses we've played are quality defenses," Neal Brown said. "The early part of the season from a defensive standpoint is probably set up a little different from a year ago."

"We're not doing a good job creating movement for him," Neal Brown added. "We're not getting on some of the second and third level guys where he can break extended runs. We're not doing a good job hitting some of our play action passes. I think that he's left



PHOTO BY BEN QUEEN

West Virginia Mountaineers head coach Neal Brown yells out a fourth down call during the Spring Game at Milan Puskar Stadium on April 24, 2021.

some yardage out there too. For us to be successful, we have to make sure he's more productive."

Despite the poor start to the season, Neal Brown has stated that he is still committed to de-

veloping the program at West Virginia.

"I knew this wasn't going to be a quick turn," Neal Brown said. "Did I think we were going to be 2-4 right now? No. Did I think we were going to

be 6-0? Probably not either."

"I did feel like we would play better and be able to close out some of these games in the fourth quarter that we simply have not," Neal Brown added. "I knew this was go-

ing to be a process. Did I think that we were going arrive in year three and be at the top of the league? No. Do I believe with all my heart that we'll get there? Absolutely."

Three abysmal stats from WVU's three-game losing streak

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY
SPORTS EDITOR

West Virginia football has been on a downward spiral since defeating then-No. 15 Virginia Tech on Sept. 18. Since that marquee win for Neal Brown and company, the Mountaineers have begun playing Big 12 opponents and have lost all three games.

Here are the trends between West Virginia starting the season 2-1 and going winless in its past three games.

Offense in the first half

The offense has not been cutting it this year, but there has been a distinct difference between the first three games and the last three.

In the first three games, the WVU offense averaged 27 points in the first half. In the last three, it is averaging just six points in the first half.

The defense hasn't helped keep the Mountaineers out



PHOTO BY BRYNN FORREST

West Virginia safety Sean Mahone (29) tackles a Texas Tech player at Milan Puskar Stadium in Morgantown, W.Va., on Oct. 2, 2021.

of the hole before halftime, but the offense hasn't been a strong supporter either. WVU has scored touchdowns on its opening drive in five of six games, but other than those early scores, the offense disappears.

To right the ship with the

first half issues, not only does the defense need to return to its dominant form, but the offense needs to do more than score just once.

Defense in the first half

The WVU defense looked like one of the most elite units

through four games, but over the past two games and even late against Oklahoma, it has faltered.

In the first three games of the season, the defense had only allowed on average nine points in the first half. Granted one of those first three games

was against Long Island.

During the losing streak, West Virginia has allowed 14 points in the first half with major deficits heading into the locker room in the last two games.

Neal Brown acknowledged the hole his defense put the team in on Saturday after it allowed 28 points to Baylor in the first half.

"We just got exposed a little bit," Brown said. "Defensively we've played above average at times, but we haven't been very consistent. We struggled with coverage and they [Baylor] came out and they hadn't shown the ability early to do that as far as throwing the football, but they did today."

In the last two weeks, West Virginia trailed 17-0 (Texas Tech) and 28-10 (Baylor) at halftime, respectively. That hasn't been entirely on the defense.

Rushing Offense

2021 has not been Leddie

Brown's year. The senior running back propelled himself into the national spotlight last year and looked poised to have another impactful season in Morgantown this season.

So, far this year, that hasn't been the case.

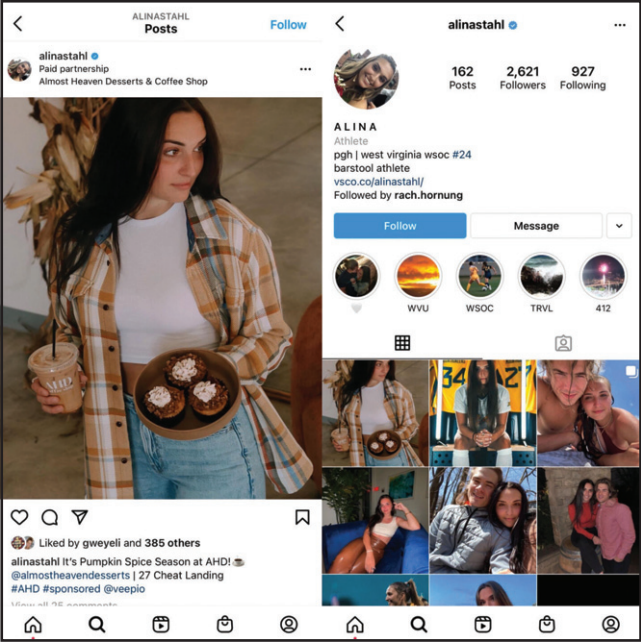
Leddie Brown has 95 carries for 422 yards and six touchdowns and only once has he eclipsed 100 yards in a game (Virginia Tech). Along with the team losing three-straight games, the rushing offense has been losing for the past three weeks.

In the first three games of the season, West Virginia averaged 139.6 rushing yards per game. Over the past three losses, the Mountaineers have averaged just 77 rushing yards per game.

The offense was expected to fuel itself on the run game. During wins, the Mountaineers were moving the ball on the ground, but in the past three games, it has been close to nonexistent.

Endorsement

Continued from page 1

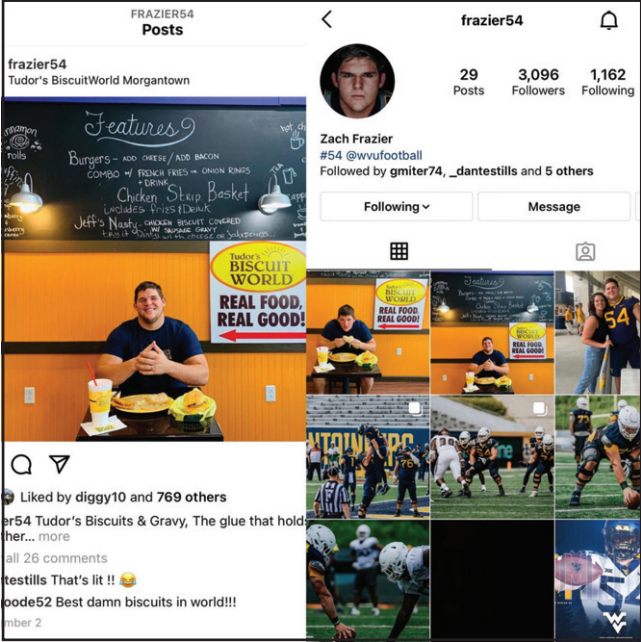


West Virginia women's soccer player Alina Stahl posted pictures endorsing Almost Heaven Desserts & Coffee Shop in Morgantown.



COURTESY VEEPIO

West Virginia football players Dante Stills and Doug Nester appeared in a commercial for Little General convenience stores after VEEPIO facilitated the deal.



West Virginia offensive lineman Zach Frazier recently posted pictures endorsing Tudor's Biscuit World.



PHOTO COURTESY TWITTER

Doug Nestor and Dante Stills in a Little General commercial.



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West Virginia offensive lineman Zach Frazier recently posted pictures endorsing Tudor's Biscuit World.

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Second half dominance drives WVU women's soccer

BY WESLEY SHOEMAKER

SPORTS WRITER

This season, the No. 21 West Virginia women's soccer team has found a lot of its success on the back of its second half play.

With the Mountaineers in the thick of their Big 12 schedule, second half success will continue to be a crucial factor in winning matches.

Despite coming off of a draw and a loss to Kansas State and Kansas over the weekend, West Virginia still ranks near the top of the conference in goal differential. The Mountaineers are currently plus six in goal differential during conference play, tied for second best in the conference.

The Mountaineers also rank first in the Big 12 in second half goal differential (plus five) since the beginning of conference play, scoring five more goals than their opponent in that span.

The second closest team in the Big 12 to West Virginia's goal differential in the second half is No. 11 TCU, who the Mountaineers will play this week.

Head coach Nikki Iz-



PHOTO BY TIFFANY VANNOY

West Virginia sophomore midfielder/defender Juliana Lynch attacks the Duke defense during WVU's match against the Blue Devils in Morgantown, W.Va., on March 27, 2021.

zo-Brown feels it is the smaller adjustments, after seeing a team play for the first 45 minutes that help contribute to her team's second half success.

"I think it's minor adjustments," Izzo-Brown said. "You can scout a team and go into

the game thinking it's going to be one way and then seeing different matchups and then make those adjustments or just the team being able to kind of feel each other out and change some tactics."

Changing those tactics is

exactly what Izzo-Brown and her squad had to do a couple weeks ago when they faced Oklahoma.

After being tied at half-time, Izzo-Brown implored her team to make necessary adjustments to help put the

Mountaineers ahead. Her team responded by doing just that and scored two goals in the second half, to give West Virginia a 2-0 win.

"I thought the team really came together in the second half," Izzo-Brown said follow-

ing the Oklahoma match. "I thought everybody really recognized where we had to make some adjustments."

These kinds of changes have also not been just a factor in conference play. During non-conference action, the Mountaineers did not allow a second half goal until their eighth match of the season. West Virginia is out-scoring its opponents 13-8 in the first period, compared to a daunting 14-2 in the second half.

This type of consistency during the second half of matches will be crucial to West Virginia trying to get back to the top of the standings in the Big 12. West Virginia's next three opponents — TCU, Texas Tech and Texas — rank fourth, first and second, respectively, in the conference in goal differential during conference play.

This stretch of tough opponents will certainly test the Mountaineers, but by putting together quality soccer, and limiting the number of goals scored in the second half, West Virginia will hope that is enough to stay near the top of the Big 12.



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