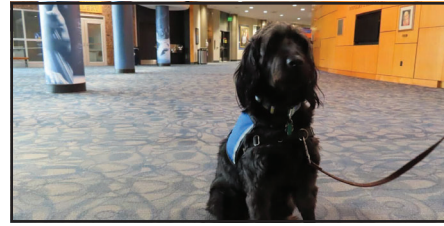




Are WVU's three-week winter courses worth it?

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West Virginia brings on Baker

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WVU's Independent Student Newspaper

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PHOTO BY TYLER PRUSINA

West Virginia head coach Neal Brown before a game against Kansas on Sept. 10, 2022, at Milan Puskar Stadium in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Gee backs Brown

Head coach to return for fifth season at WVU

BY TRENTON STRAIGHT AND
LUKE BLAIN

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND STAFF WRITER

West Virginia University President E. Gordon Gee reaffirmed the decision to keep Neal Brown as the University's head football coach on Monday during a press conference welcoming the new Athletic Director Wren Baker.

"As we all know, one of the things that I started realizing really did put our football coach in a very challenging position because we played

Power 5 teams, right off the bat," Gee said.

Gee added that the football team had a difficult season this past year but performed well given the circumstances.

"The fact that we've gone 5-7 in a very competitive environment is something that I take a lot of pride in," he said.

During the conference, Baker said he looks forward to working with Brown in the football program.

"I look forward to getting in and really working with [Brown] and learn everything I can about the football

program, and I'm confident we'll together figure out where we need to go," Baker said.

According to Gee, every candidate for the athletic director position said they would work with Brown.

"Few people have connected more clearly with West Virginia ... and [Baker] came in and embraced us, and this is a moment of grace for each other," Gee said.

Brown's return for a fifth season

See Brown page 8

Student files lawsuit against fraternity, club after alleged rape

BY TRENTON STRAIGHT

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CONTENT WARNING: This article includes language that may be triggering to some readers.

A WVU student filed a lawsuit on Dec. 1, against a fraternity, one of its members and a former Morgantown nightclub.

The lawsuit alleges that the underage student was served an excessive number of alcoholic beverages at a social event and was later raped at a fraternity member's home.

According to the complaint, Pi Lambda Phi held a private social event at Blaze, a defunct nightclub on Walnut Street, on Dec. 3, 2021.

The 20-year-old student who filed the lawsuit said she was invited to the event by a member of the fraternity.

The lawsuit claims another fraternity member purchased and served the plaintiff drinks until she was "extremely impaired and unable to maintain her balance."

During a speech at the event, the plaintiff fell over a table and knocked over a tower of wooden blocks due to her condition, the lawsuit said. Further, it claims both the fraternity and nightclub staff failed to offer any type of care.

The lawsuit accuses Blaze of promoting the "overconsumption of alcohol to college students" during the event, arguing the nightclub's goal was to sell high quantities of alcoholic drinks at a low price.

After the plaintiff became separated from the fraternity member who invited her, the second fraternity member took her to his home and raped her while she was in an

"obviously inebriated state," according to the lawsuit.

The fraternity member accused of rape is no longer a student at WVU, according to the University's directory.

School officials could not confirm whether the student named in the suit faced disciplinary action since last year's alleged incident, citing Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

The lawsuit also claims the fraternity and nightclub workers failed to monitor the alcohol consumption of attendees, including those under the age of 21. Further, it claims Blaze was understaffed during the event.

According to the legal filing, the social event was required to be registered with WVU's Center for Fraternal Values and Leadership (CFVL), which requires specific safety measures for "restricted events."

Pi Lambda Phi is one of a dozen Interfraternity Council fraternities recognized by WVU.

Restricted events include any events managed by a chapter on or off campus property where alcohol is served.

For these events, the University requires Greek organizations to provide at least one "alcohol/substance-free monitor" for every 15 people in attendance, according to CFVL's Policy and Procedures Manual. A list of people attending the event is required as well.

The lawsuit claims the fraternity failed to uphold this policy, among other university requirements.

The Daily Athenaeum has filed a public records requests for the registration forms related to the fraternity's reported restricted event last

See Lawsuit page 4



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WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY 12/8

CLOUDY WITH A FEW SHOWERS LATE
HIGH 50° - LOW 41°



FRIDAY 12/9

CLOUDY WITH RAIN
HIGH 51° - LOW 43°



SATURDAY 12/10

CLOUDY WITH RAIN
HIGH 48° - LOW 42°



CRIME REPORT

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

Dec. 5
9:38 P.M. | Forward
Seneca Hall
Destruction of Property.

Dec. 5
3:39 A.M. | Report Only
Waverly Street
Petit Larceny, STPL.

Dec. 5
10:36 A.M. | Resolved
WVU Area 11
Back Ticket Tow.

Dec. 5
10:29 A.M. | Resolved
Mountainlair Garage
Fire Alarm.

Dec. 5
10:09 A.M. | Resolved

Oakland Hall East
Assist EMS Police.

Dec. 5
7:48 A.M. | Resolved
Health Science Center
Assist EMS Police.

Dec. 5
2:15 A.M. | Resolved
Chemistry Research Lab
Fire Alarm.

Dec. 5
2:37 A.M. | Resolved
Sigma Chi Fraternity
Suspicious Event.

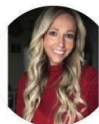
Dec. 5
2:06 A.M. | Resolved
Braxton Tower
Elevator Rescue.

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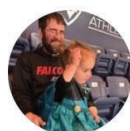
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SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENTS



Afton
@affy304

It's totally okay for kids to still believe in Santa. I know grown adults who believe Nick Saban will be the HC at WVU someday.



Sean Manning
@SeanManning_1

I swear half of WVU Facebook hasn't watched a game in 15 years, but they are the most vocal.



Adam Crowley ✓
@_adamcrowley

I was pulled in front of this guy after burning a couch in Morgantown.

← Tweet



Jon Heyman ✓
@JonHeyman

Arson Judge appears headed to Giants

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WVU's INDEPENDENT
STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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NEWS

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SGA enacts major changes to election process following weeks of debate

BY TRENTON STRAIGHT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After weeks of heated discussion, WVU's Student Government Association passed sweeping changes to its Election Code.

SGA voted on multiple amendments to the code on Nov. 16, and the changes were announced last Wednesday night following the organization's regular meeting.

The most notable amendment increases campaign finance transparency.

Last semester, The Daily Athenaeum reported on a series of campaign finances that revealed that Turning Point USA — a national right-wing group that promotes conservative campus activism — had attempted to influence SGA elections for the past several years.

Now, under the revised Election Code, candidates are "prohibited from receiving funds from organizations."

According to SGA, the change is part of a larger effort to prevent outside groups from influencing campus elections.

Candidates are also required to make campaign finance statements publicly available on the student government website.

Similar efforts were made

2023 Election Timeline

Candidate info sessions: Jan. 11, 18

Filing packet deadline: Jan. 26

Candidate meeting: Feb. 2

Candidate Education Period: Feb. 6-24

Absentee requests open: Feb. 6

Active campaigning begins: March 3

Absentee requests close: March 6

Candidate debate: March 6

Voting Days: March 7, 8

Absentee ballot due: March 8

More information about the election can be found at sga.wvu.edu



PHOTO BY TRENTON STRAIGHT

Members of WVU's Student Government Association gather for a weekly meeting on Nov. 2, 2022.

last semester when student government members attempted to modify the body's Election Code for the purpose of increasing campaign finance transparency.

However, the bill failed to pass because it violated the Election Code itself, which states it cannot be amended "after the last regular SGA

meeting in the fall semester prior to the election."

The voting format for elections was another controversial topic discussed in recent meetings.

Moving forward, voting will largely be held in person at three locations on campus: the Mountainlair, Student Recreation Center and the Health

Science Pylons.

Students may also request an online absentee ballot, which SGA says will be "heavily promoted." Voting had been held online in recent years due to the pandemic.

SGA's method for election campaigning has changed as

well.

Candidates can no longer run together under formal tickets, according to the recent changes. Ticket names, for example, will not be listed on the ballot.

Now, candidates are required to run individually with

separate financial statements. However, those running for election can informally create teams.

The next SGA election will take place in early March. Filing packets will become available on Wednesday, Dec. 7, through WVUEngage.

Are WVU's three-week winter courses worth it?

BY NICK JOHNSON
CORRESPONDENT

WVU's Winter Intercession will return in just two weeks, offering students the opportunity to enroll in three-week courses packed with a semester's worth of course material during the break.

The University opened registration for the shortened term in October, releasing more than 40 course offerings.

Ideally, this would give some students the opportunity to catch up on credit hours.

But there are pros and cons to winter classes.

Winter Intercession may help students who have either withdrawn from a class in the fall, want to graduate early or are interested in improving their GPA and learning new topics.

Third-time Winter Inter-

session professor Suzanne Kitchen said she believes one of the biggest benefits of the program is the ability to finish a course that is usually completed in 16 weeks in just 20 days.

"But the other benefit is that you do get a reduced tuition rate for that class," she said.

For undergraduate students, each Winter Intercession credit hour costs \$391. The cost for one credit hour for graduate students is \$589.

Although not every class is included in the Winter Intercession, many general education foundation classes are offered for students who want to get them out of the way.

Since Winter Intercession courses only last for three weeks, University policy states that students cannot take more than five credit hours, or two classes, due to the intensity and the accelerated format.



PHOTO BY LOGAN ADAMS

A student walks past the Mountainlair on Wednesday, Jan. 20.

But some professors think students should take winter classes only if they have an open schedule for the heavy workload.

"It may sound attractive, but it's not for everybody," fourth-year Winter Inter-

session professor Jay Malarcher said. "If you have a work schedule or family responsibilities, it's probably not smart. But if you need the hours and you see a course that appeals to you, it's a good way to pick up three hours here and there."

Students typically spend 20 to 40 hours a week completing coursework, according to the Winter Intercession webpage.

Malarcher, who teaches FILM 101 and FILM 102 during Winter Intercession, said students regularly read through a chapter in the textbook, watch a movie and write a report each day.

Since the courses are shortened, some professors struggle to decide how much material they need to assign to students each day, as well as what to change from a fall or spring semester class.

"I know that I didn't cut any material. I did modify a little bit of the pace that I would do things at, but in terms of reducing the material load, I did not reduce the material load in any considerable way," first-year Winter Intercession professor Todd Hamrick said.

If students think they can handle the workload without

falling behind, the University advises students to take the opportunity to fulfill their requirements or diversify their transcript with a wide range of classes, like MDIA 101, GEOL 101, ANTH 105 and many more.

The last day to add or drop a Winter Intercession course is Dec. 21, and the last day to withdraw from a class is Dec. 30.

After Dec. 21, students who apply for Winter Intercession courses will be charged the full tuition for the program.

To learn more about the shortened term, visit the Winter Intercession website.

To register for courses, students may submit the online Winter Intercession Registration Request Form.

Carruth offers support for students during finals

School officials reference national college mental health trends

BY LAUREN TAYLOR
CORRESPONDENT

With the semester coming to a close and finals rapidly approaching, it is more important than ever for students to monitor their mental health as they navigate the dreaded finals week.

But T. Anne Hawkins, director of WVU's Carruth Center, said student mental health has become increasingly important, regardless of the time of year.

"When we review the literature regarding collegiate mental health, we see an increase in anxiety, an increase in depression and an increase in suicidal ideation with college-aged students," she said.

For many students, finals can amplify pre-existing feelings of stress and anxiety, which Hawkins attributes to busier schedules.

"They have to juggle preparing for finals, their part-time job, applying for internships, they may be considering what they're doing for the holidays," she said. "Students feel a considerable amount of pressure as finals get closer."

Emma Del Torto, a freshman Animal Nutrition Science major, says she feels the most stress while prepping for finals.

"I am feeling overwhelmed just in the sense that most of my finals are like actual tests," she said. "I know we have this whole upcoming week to kind of prepare ourselves for it, but

it almost feels like that's still not enough time."

The Carruth Center for Counseling and Psychological Services is WVU's on-campus provider of mental health resources. It hosts several programs available to enrolled students including a crisis clinic, short-term counseling, group counseling, drug and alcohol counseling, care management, a Well-Being Adventure Series and outreach programs.

The University is also home to WellWVU, an on-campus program that aims to "foster the complete well-being of our students through education, promotion, and related services."

WellWVU held its annual "Chillfest" on Dec. 6 for students feeling extra stress or anxiety with the upcoming heavy workload. The event offered relaxing activities such as chair massages, painting, aromatherapy and try-it sessions, as well as free food for attendees.

Mental health services can be accessed by visiting the WellWVU website.

Hawkins said students should remember that it is normal to experience rough patches and that help is readily available on and off campus.

"A student who comes to the counseling center is not going to feel judged. They're going to feel supported, and they're going to sit across from someone who knows what it's like to be a college student because they've been there and

Types of Services

- Crisis clinic
- Short-term counseling
- Group counseling
- Drug and Alcohol Counseling
- Care Management
- Well-Being Adventure Series
- Outreach program

How to make an appointment

Schedule by phone at (304) 293-4431 or visit carruth.wvu.edu/services

they've done that," she said. Students seeking resources from the Carruth Center can schedule an appointment by phone at (304) 293-4431 or visit carruth.wvu.edu/services.



ILLUSTRATION BY CAROLINE MURPHY

Lawsuit
Continued from page 1
December.
The DA also reached out to Pi Lambda Phi about the complaint. But the fraternity's executive director, Ian Lowe, declined to comment due to the pending nature of the lawsuit.
In the filing, the plaintiff ac-

cuses Blaze and two managing partners of one count of negligence, one count of negligence against the fraternity and one of its members and accuses another member of sexual assault and battery.

The managing members named in the lawsuit are currently operating Starport Arcade and Pub under the same business license that Blaze

did, according to the West Virginia Secretary of State database.

Further, the lawsuit seeks a juried trial, "compensatory damages, punitive damages, pre and post-judgment interest, attorney fees, costs, and such other and further relief" from the Monongalia County Circuit Court.

Morgantown man admits to federal firearm charges

BY DA STAFF

A man who reportedly fired a gun during a dispute at a Morgantown bar this summer has admitted to federal charges, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Morgantown police arrested 31-year-old Reece Shepard after responding to reports of shots fired near Walnut Street.

Officers reviewed surveillance footage in the area and confirmed the weapon was fired following a dispute near Liquid Lounge Bar.

Shepard was then charged with wanton endangerment and being a prohibited person in possession of a firearm.

Shepard pleaded guilty on Monday to one count of unlawful possession of a firearm. He admitted to possessing a

PHOTO CREDIT NEEDED

A sign inside of the Morgantown Police Department on Sept. 16, 2020.

.40 caliber firearm in July in Monongalia County, according to federal officials.

At the time of the offense, Morgantown police officers found a .40 caliber firearm on the south side of Walnut Street.

Shepard now faces up to 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000. However, federal officials said his sentence will be based on the "seriousness of the offenses and the prior criminal history, if any."

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WVU CCA names new therapy dog

BY CONNOR GIBBONS
STAFF WRITER

There's a new furry friend roaming the halls of the Canady Creative Arts Center.

Daisy, a two-year-old Labradoodle, was recently named the official therapy dog of WVU's College of Creative Arts.

While on duty at the CCAC on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, Daisy can be found in her blue vest alongside James Froemel, the college's recruitment specialist, who cares for therapy dog.

Daisy's job on campus is to be the comfort animal students can turn to in a time of stress, as well as to be a furry form of support students might need.

"A lot of students say, 'I miss my dog and this helps,'" Froemel said. "This puppy here you can pet, it just kind of breaks everybody away from some of the stresses that exist with being a college student, being an artist, that you can just take a few minutes to forget about that."

Daisy was initially brought to Hearts of Gold, a service dog training program on campus, to train as a traditional service dog but she was a natural therapy animal, said Froemel.

Housed in the Davis College, the Hearts of Gold program is run by the University and the non profit Human Animal Bond to give students hands-on experience with small animals. The service dogs trained in the program go on to serve military veterans free of charge.

Froemel contacted Hearts of Gold in fall of 2021 about a creative arts therapy animal and in April of 2022. Daisy was found to be a good match.

Although Daisy was training to become a service dog, Hearts of Gold found that Daisy would be better suited for a therapy job at the University.

"All of our dogs originally started off as service dogs in training," Abigail McElwee, assistant trainer at Hearts of Gold, said. "If we know that they're not going to work out for service, we give them a career change to therapy work."

Students interested in learning to train service or therapy dogs like Daisy, can register for A&VS 277, in which Daisy still takes part, or its prerequisite A&VS 276.

Daisy can be found online on her own Instagram page, @daisy_wvu, or with James Froemel in the CCAC lobby on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

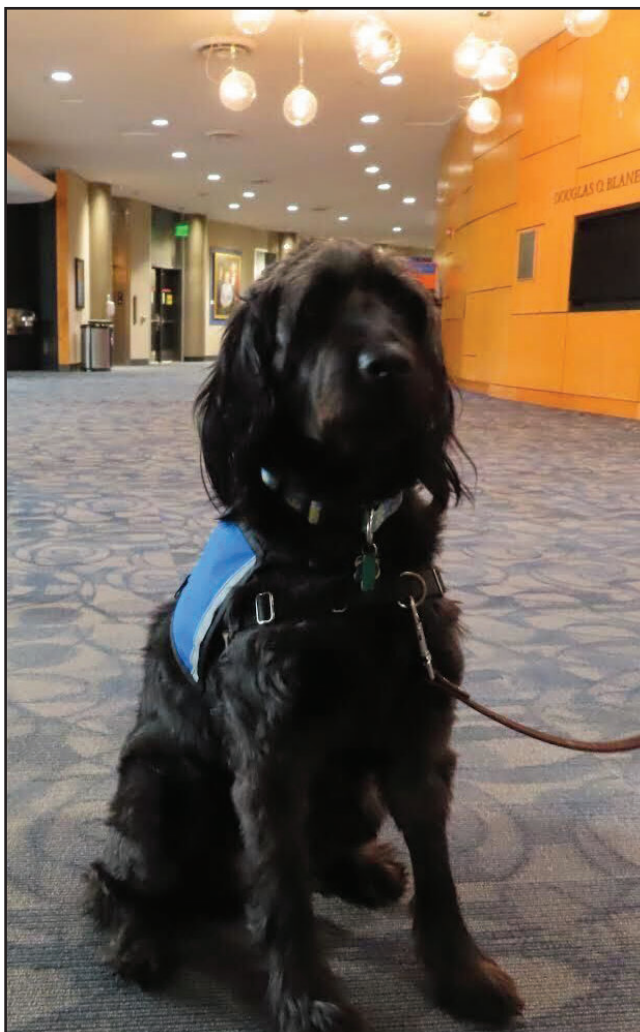


PHOTO BY CONNOR GIBBONS

Daisy poses for a photo in the third floor lobby of the Canady Creative Arts Center.

Three things to do in Morgantown this weekend

BY SABRINA SIEGAN
ASST. CULTURE EDITOR

Just before campus breaks for the holidays, WVU is winding up for finals this next week. During this time, it's important to find moments for rest, as well as time slots for study breaks.

Here are the DA's recommendations for university and community events to help destress before finals week.

1 Meditation & Journaling to Relieve Stress

There are two opportunities downtown and on Health Sciences to put mental health first on Friday, Dec. 9.

Meditation sessions will be taking place from 1 to 2 p.m. at Serenity Place at Arnold House, located at 628 Price St. These sessions are available virtually or in person and are free and open to all students.

Journaling sessions will take place from noon to 3 p.m. in the Pylons Commons at WVU's Health Science Cen-

ter. During this time, participants will learn about stress relief practices, practice deep breathing and design a personal journal.

2 College of Creative Arts Fall Pottery Sale

Handmade pottery curated by WVU students and faculty will be on sale during the Fall Pottery Sale this Friday Dec. 9 at The School of Art and Design CCAC from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

All sales feed back into the program providing funding for scholarships, student events and help to support WVU's China Ceramics Program.

3 Christmas Market at Apothecary

Apothecary Ale House, located at 277 Spruce St., will be hosting its first Christmas Market on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Artists and craft vendors will set up a European-style market that is free to the public, with hot mulled wine and cider served.

Morgantown's small businesses provide local holiday gifts

BY SAVANNAH JONES
CORRESPONDENT

Finding unique holiday gifts can be a challenge, but Morgantown's small business market holds a wide variety of options, handpicked and handcrafted by owners.

For every \$100 spent at a small business, about \$68 stays within the community. In comparison, \$43 stays in the community when \$100 is spent at larger retailers, according to a retail diversity study done by Local First Arizona.

Morgantown is home to a multitude of small businesses that pride themselves on not only contributing to the community, but also catering directly to their customers with personalized inventory and a unique experience with every visit.

"I see a lot of local businesses ask community members, you know, 'What would you buy for the holidays? What are you missing?'" Lauren Weatherford, family and community development specialist, said. "That's the nice thing that small businesses can really do is fill a void of things

that aren't available through the kind of traditional chain store."

Businesses like the Cutting Room Boutique and Pinocchio's Books and Toys do just that for the Morgantown community.

"My customer base is really pretty steady with the same people, so that's how I know what to buy when I go to the market because those are the people I'm buying for," Sandra White, owner of Cutting Room Boutique, said.

The store, located at the Seneca Center, holds women's clothing from 36 designers. White says that she only buys a few of each item to ensure that each customer is getting something that can't be found anywhere else.

Catering to the "working girl," The Cutting Room capitalizes on the ability to bring a higher quality of clothing to the table.

"You're gonna get tired of this stuff before it wears out," White said.

At Pinocchio's Books and Toys, on Walnut Street, the goal is to create a fun-filled environment for adults and kids where "old school" toys can be



PHOTO COURTESY PINOCCHIO'S BOOKS AND TOYS

Pinocchio's Books and Toys sells a variety of Christmas-themed gifts.

found.

"A lot of this stuff is made in America," Heather Lehosit, the manager of the store, said. "The stuff that you find in Pinocchio's, you're not typically going to find in Walmart."

Not only are the products hard to find, but they are also specially crafted to help children learn in a way that doesn't include staring at a screen, Lehosit said.

Learning games and toys

can be expensive and difficult to locate, so Pinocchio's will do specialty orders at customer's request in store or on their website.

In addition to supporting the community, small businesses also allow owners to express themselves and share their stories with local residents.

Nathaniel Hart, owner of 304 Gallery on High Street, has been selling vintage clothing and items since middle school, but his ultimate goal was to open his own store in town.

"I got into vintage because it is so unique," Hart said.

Hart feels that his customers are looking for a story, and that's what his inventory provides.

"If you get an old band tee here, it's like that was sold or worn at the show. It's not a reprint version of it, so I think it kind of gives it that extra little significance," he said.

Stephanie Swaim opened Hoot and Howl on Walnut Street not only to advertise artisans of America, but also as a way to express her love for art.

"I really enjoy making things, and I really like look-

ing for vintage," Swaim said. "So, it's always just nice to be able to share that with other people, and it's kind of just a good way to express myself."

Advertising different vendors each weekend in December, Hoot and Howl tells the stories of America's artists.

"I can pretty much tell you about every company that we carry," Swaim said. "How they got started, where they're from, if it's family owned, things like that."

Creators can apply on the website to sell their products at Hoot and Howl, but Swaim also keeps an eye out by reaching out to new and interesting companies that she may want to take in.

"It's just nice because you build these relationships with people that are in our community," Swaim said.

This holiday season, Weatherford said to shop local to keep Morgantown's community growing.

"You are serving your local community," Weatherford says. "You're supporting local businesses, which is supporting your local economy, which is improving the health of your overall community."

Editor:
Luke Morgan
lim00002@mix.wvu.edu

OPINION

West Virginia needs to invest its record-setting surplus in its people

SUBMITTED BY RYAN
HAMMOND

West Virginia has a problem that has been coming for a long time. The issue has existed for decades, as coal and surrounding industries left the state. West Virginia's population is declining.

In the last Census, the population in West Virginia dropped by 3.2% — or about 59,000 people — as reported from the Associated Press.

According to the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy, rural counties have been hit harder by this population loss. This decline is attributed to both natural factors (such as more deaths than births) and migration, as many people, especially the younger generation, leave for greater economic opportunities.

What is even more troubling is the fact the state is doing little to overcome these problems, even though they have the resources to do so.

The West Virginia state budget is sitting on a surplus in recent years, due in part to the excellent job done by Gov. Jim Justice. WV MetroNews reports that the surplus is driven by severance taxes, which exceeded projected revenues by 240%.

I'll give credit where credit is due. The governor has done a fantastic job working with

state legislators to craft this budget with a record-setting surplus.

At the moment, we are sitting on \$1.3 billion. This begs the question of why the state government is not using these resources to fix the massive problem of keeping people in West Virginia, as well as bringing in newcomers to offset natural population loss.

West Virginia politicians have acknowledged this problem for a long time now. However, they have done little to remedy it.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, the number of representatives in the West Virginia state legislature from Gen Z was zero percent in 2020. Millennials make up only about 9%.

This representation creates a real problem when thinking about the future of the state.

In the eyes of these older legislators, it makes sense. Why worry about a problem that will not affect you? Why not focus on providing resources to things that will affect them more?

The problem is that the prosperity of West Virginia lies in the hands of these people. What is going to be required of these members will be a commitment to the future of West Virginians.

So, what will this look like? The surplus of money that the state is sitting on will be criti-



WV Governor Jim Justice during a press briefing.

PHOTO COURTESY WEST VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

cal for this process.

The state needs to start investing in things that young people care about when choosing a place to live in order to keep West Virginians in West Virginia and bring in newcomers to offset natural population loss.

The first thing that needs to be done is to set state policies that incentivize businesses to move to West Virginia. I support deregulation and tax cuts and improving the infrastructure of the state to the degree-

that it will encourage a healthy business environment.

Investments in the local highway's bridges and roads will encourage job growth. Additionally, it will maximize productivity in already existing fields. Careers, rather than temporary jobs, can function as pipelines into West Virginia.

Colleges in West Virginia such as WVU should function as more than just a four-year stopping point for young people on the way out. West Virginia colleges and universities

should be attractive places to settle rather than means of escape.

I have seen many people from WVU leave the state to get a job that pays well, as the opportunity in the state is limited. Keeping and attracting highly educated people in the state will be important to sustaining our population.

The second thing that needs to be done is an investment in mental health resources. Mental health is one of the most important things to younger

generations because they see it as crucial for future success.

Finding ways to create easily accessible resources for people will lead to an interest in the state.

West Virginia is in a prime location in between the Northeast and the South. Though the geography of the state will present challenges, it is important to use this geography and nature to our advantage, while creating opportunities for growth in the future.

The solution will take a great deal of time, just as it took time to fall into this problem in the first place. However, this should not discourage us from promoting future opportunities.

We should think of this time as an investment that will be important to generations of West Virginians.

Using some of the excess surplus and investing it in infrastructure and mental health resources to lure in high paying jobs into the state will be critical to changing the trajectory we are on.

Doing this will take commitment from the leaders of the state and, it will take commitment from young people to stand up to legislative leaders in the state.

Ryan Hammond is a WVU senior Political Science Student. He is a former candidate for WV House of Delegates for District 94.

STAFF SHORT | The DA shares their top 2022 artists

BY THE DA STAFF

Early December marks special times: the holiday season, Spotify Wrapped and Apple Replay. Every year, users can share the hard, quantitative data about their music listening habits.

So what has the DA been listening to this year?

Katelyn Aluise, Investigations Editor

In preparation for a summer concert (because why else?) my top artist this year was Greta Van Fleet, scoring at 958 minutes or roughly 15 hours. My top song, however, was from America: "Sister Golden Hair," coming in at 46 plays.

I like seeing other people's music and getting recommendations so much that I have

an eclectic and ever-changing playlist, meaning there is no one artist or song that gets played too much.

Overall, I listened to 646 different songs and 274 different artists.

Avery Yearout, Photo Editor

My top artist of the year on Spotify was Taylor Swift, obviously with her new music this year. My top genre was pop because of how much I listened to Taylor Swift. I listened to 24,249 minutes.

The weirdest thing that was on my Spotify Wrapped was a song from a musical that I listened to 52 times. I honestly don't think I've ever heard in my life. My favorite thing on my Wrapped was all the Taylor and One Direction songs that were in my Top 5.

I like seeing Spotify Wrapped posts but some people do too much with posting them. The fact that Carrie Underwood was in my Top 5 artists was a really big surprise.

Ladimir Garcia, Social Media Manager

My top artist was Taylor Swift, because she IS the music industry. My total play time was 107,009 minutes and I really don't know how that happened. The one thing that really surprised me was how Show Tunes was one of my top genres. Considering how much I listen to music, it's impressive that the genre made it there.

I don't mind seeing other people's Spotify Wrapped on social media. I think it's interesting seeing what other people listen to and it even en-

courages me to listen to new music.

Jordan Howes, Newsletter Editor

My top artists this year was BTS followed closely by Harry Styles and Taylor Swift (I'm a child of divorce) and I had a total of 28,119 minutes. Full disclosure, I'm an Apple Music user so I didn't have all the fun analytics that Spotify users got. But my favorite thing about my Apple Music recap was seeing my top songs because for some reason, I was surprised as if I don't listen to the same five songs on repeat.

I do enjoy seeing other people's top songs. I will be honest, it is kind of fun being nosy! Overall, this time of year is a lot of fun and seeing everyone's music recap adds to the

What have you been listening to in 2022?





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CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
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Across

1 Foot wear
5 Continent
9 Cut of beef
14 Pound
15 Protocol
16 Solitudinarian
17 Liberal
18 Aroma
19 Terra __ (type of clay)
20 Conger
21 Race on skis
23 Stir
24 Runny
26 Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
28 Swipe
29 Make a duplicate
31 Ghost's greeting
34 Nitro ____
37 Water retention
39 Clang
40 And so forth
41 Stink
42 __ Lee (pie brand name)
44 Shuck (2 wds.)
47 Gall
48 Russia
50 Both
51 Heat unit
52 Chilli brand

DOWN

1 Cut with a saw
2 Orange yellow
3 Texas stew
4 Container
5 Eucharist
6 Carbonated drink
7 False god graven image
8 Air (prefix)
9 Tender loving care
10 Footwear
11 Upon
12 Fish catchers
13 Long time periods
21 __ and span (very clean)
22 Chart of area or terrain
25 Animal kingdom division

56 Reduce (abbr.)
59 Very old age
63 Vane direction
64 Islam's head
66 Molecule
67 Bread
68 Brutal
69 Decant
70 Gets older
71 Looped cloth
72 Scrape
73 Stimulate

27 Sayonara
29 Quoter
30 One time
31 Bar drink
32 Bode
33 Sturdy tree
34 Hiking equipment
35 Spree
36 Representatives
38 Amusing
39 Pounds per square inch
43 Small house
45 Portable gas light
46 Mud
49 Light in the sky
51 Thorny plant
53 "Gone With the Wind" actress
54 Sugar-free brand
55 Bread leavening
56 Account (abbr.)
57 Nude
58 Make unclear
60 Pixies
61 Cranny
62 Decorative needle case
65 Soar
67 Animal foot

For answers, visit thedaonline.com



Pet of the Week



PHOTO BY SHELBY HANN

Meet Levi. Levi is a Springer Spaniel. He has so much energy, and he loves to race the cars and people going by. He loves a good cuddle on the porch swing while watching the sunset. Not to mention, he's a great hunting/fishing buddy. He prefers drinking straight from a water bottle whenever we're out instead of from his bowl. Although he's super cute, don't crouch down to pet him because he'll climb into your lap for cuddles and squirm like a worm if you don't let him.

Submit your favorite pet photo at da-classifieds@mail.wvu.edu

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For answers, visit thedaonline.com

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

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West Virginia brings on Baker

New AD discusses future of student athletes, college athletics

BY ZACH ANDERSON
SPORTS EDITOR

WVU President E. Gordon Gee introduced the University's new athletic director on Monday. As the new leader of the school's athletic programs, Wren Baker discussed the department's goals moving forward.

Gee introduced Baker as an athletic director that has met all of the criteria for athletic director, as a young personality he will be someone who can connect with West Virginians.

"[Baker is] someone who will connect with and who will love West Virginians, and someone who would embrace this athletic program at West Virginia University and lead us to new heights," Gee said.

"I can tell you he fits every one of our criteria, and in addition to being an exceptionally talented athletic director, he's also a very positive person who easily connects and engages with everyone that he meets," he continued. "He understands the vision, he knows where we want to go and I have no doubt that he'll get us there."

Baker was officially named WVU's 13th athletic director on Nov. 30.

He officially takes over the position on Dec. 19 under a six-year contract through Dec. 31, 2028. West Virginia will pay out \$6.6 million dollars under the agreement.

Now, after researching and learning about the University, Baker said he found many things to love about WVU.

"I love the role the University plays for the state and the people," Baker said. "I love its roots as a land grant institution. I love that we're nationally known for providing an elite education. I love the

passion that this entire state has for the Mountaineers, it is special and unique and something I'm excited to be a part of and will not take for granted."

Baker comes from his director of athletics position at the University of North Texas, saying he was thankful for his family at the school and how it affected his career up to this point.

The new athletic director has also made stops at Missouri from 2015 to 2016 and at Memphis from 2013 to 2015 as the deputy athletic director, but this is his first Power Five Division I position, and the Mean Green have prepared him for that.

"President Neil Smotrich has been a great partner and friend, and I'm indebted to him, our Board of Regents, our system, Chancellor Williams, and most importantly, the student athletes, coaches, and staff whom I love and respect tremendously," Baker said.

With many resources at the forefront of college athletics such as the transfer portal, name, image and likeness along with the ever-changing landscape, Baker appreciates the usefulness of the Country Roads Trust, WVU's new program to facilitate NIL deals with student-athletes.

"I see them [Country Roads Trust] as an asset and a tool and so maybe we need to have a relationship with. Not one that violates the rules but one that is healthy and does everything that can provide those opportunities for student athletes within the rules."

Alongside the steps in name, image and likeness, Baker has a big focus on the NCAA transfer portal and retaining the star athletes in all sports that West Virginia has acquired by making them feel like they're gaining an experience



PHOTO COURTESY WVU ATHLETICS

Wren Baker is announced as the new athletic director of WVU at the Milan Puskar Center, in Morgantown on Dec. 5, 2022.

rience outside of just athletics at WVU.

"I think [the Transfer Portal] starts with making sure that the student athletes who are here, are having a great experience. Retention in any form of talent acquisition is critical," Baker said. "We want our student athletes who are in our program now to have a great experience and to feel like they are being prepared for more

than just athletics and to get a degree, but that we're preparing them for life."

But the hot-button issues aren't the only thing that the new director of athletics was focused during Monday's conferences, and he has simple goals for student athletes. Baker wants to focus on how to progress these student-athletes both on the field, in the classroom and after sports.

"Our student athletes, their success and well-being, will be at the center of everything we do. They'll be at the forefront of our decisions and we will do everything we can to give them the best experience possible because that's what they deserve," Baker said. "We'll build them into champions, leaders, and most importantly, graduates, during their time here."

Baker continued, "Secondly, I believe details are important. Little things make the big things, attention to those details reflects a commitment to excellence that is critical to building and sustaining winning programs. We will win with people, and we'll place a high priority on their growth and their success."

Brown

Continued from page 1

was announced on Nov. 30, just hours after Baker was named the University's new athletic director.

Baker served as the former vice president and director of Athletics at the University of North Texas.

According to former Interim Athletics Director Rob Alsop, Gee and Baker reached

a decision after discussing the future of WVU's football program.

In a statement last week, Alsop said, "It's clear [Brown] should continue to lead [the program]."

"Over the past several weeks, [Gee] and I have discussed the future of WVU Athletics and our football program with a number of individuals and talented athletic administrators from across the country. We were also impressed

with the effort of our team the last few weeks," Alsop said.

"Additionally, we have also had discussions with [Brown] and [Baker] about our next steps as a department. In fact, Wren and Coach Brown have already connected relating to the future of the program. As a result of all of these efforts and discussions, it is clear that Coach Brown should continue to lead our football program."

Earlier this month, Gee said the new athletic director

would decide on the future of Brown's coaching career at the University following the departure of former Athletic Director Shane Lyons.

Lyons — who recently accepted a position as the deputy athletic director at the University of Alabama — said Gee and other school administrators fired him, citing the football program's crumbling performance and Brown's contract extension, among other things.

Lyons discussed his leave from WVU on Monday in an interview with Talkline's Hoppy Kercheval.

Now, WVU will pay out \$6.6 million dollars for Baker's position throughout the next six years, according to the new director's contract.

Baker will take over the position beginning Dec. 19.

Alsop said Gee and Baker will continue working to "ensure a smooth transition" to the "next era" of the University's athletics program.

"With new energy that comes with new leadership, it is time to rally around Wren's leadership as we move forward quickly to recruit more top student-athletes to our program and continue to develop the incredibly talented group of returning players who are an integral part of our Mountaineer family," Alsop said.

Tracking transfer portal departures for West Virginia football so far

BY ZACH ANDERSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The NCAA transfer portal officially opened on Monday and more than 1,000 college football players have entered their names to find a new destination.

West Virginia football has had many athletes announce their intent to transfer since the portal opened this week. Here are the players who have confirmed they're leaving so far, as of Tuesday night.

JT Daniels, Quarterback:

Daniels started the first 10 games for the Mountaineers this season, but against Oklahoma on Nov. 12, backup quarterback Garrett Greene took over the position and started the final two games of the season.

Coming from Georgia last season after playing for USC from 2018-2020, Daniels will now be searching for his fourth school after announcing that he was transferring on Tuesday, according to ESPN's Pete Thamel.

The junior passer contrib-

uted for 2,107 passing yards, 13 touchdowns and nine interceptions in 2022, completing 61% of his passes through 10 games as a starter. He leaves WVU with two years of eligibility remaining.

Reese Smith, Wide Receiver:

Smith was a rotational wide receiver for the Mountaineers this season, playing sparsely on offense, special teams and as a kick returner in all 12 games this season.

Smith is only a sophomore and has spent his entire career in Morgantown after coming out of head coach Neal Brown's high school in Boyle County, Kentucky.

After announcing his transfer on his Twitter on Monday, he will be searching for his first new destination with two years of eligibility remaining.

Smith finished this past season with 19 receptions for 202 yards and one receiving touchdown, ranking him fourth on the team. He also returned four punts and one kickoff.

Will Crowder, Quarterback:

As a three-star recruit out

of Brown's inaugural 2021 recruiting class, Crowder primarily spent time as a reserve option for the Mountaineers, but made appearances in lopsided matchups or in the spring.

Crowder did complete all eight of his pass attempts across his three in-game appearances, throwing for 85 yards and one touchdown, but has decided to enter the transfer portal as he announced on his Twitter page on Monday.

Leaving WVU, Crowder just finished his redshirt freshman season and will have three years of eligibility at his new destination.

Markquan Rucker, Running Back:

As a walk-on running back from Middlebourne, West Virginia and Tyler Consolidated High School, Rucker saw very limited action for the Mountaineers.

During his time in Morgantown, he played primarily on special teams and contributed depth to the running back room, recording only two carries out of the backfield during his career. He made his transfer announcement on his

Twitter on Tuesday.

Rucker, a member of WVU since the 2020 season, only appeared in five games and recorded six yards on his two carries. He also recorded one tackle on special teams.

Coming off the 2022 season as a redshirt freshman, Rucker will have three years of eligibility remaining at his next school.

Nick Maher, Wide Receiver:

Maher announced on his Twitter page Tuesday that he would be transferring away from WVU after two seasons. He redshirted in 2021 but was not able to record a play on the field across two seasons for the Mountaineers.

Coming out of North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as unrated prospect in the class of 2021, he will be transferring away with three years of eligibility remaining.

For more information on WVU football transfers as they are announced, please follow along on our website.

U92 SPORTS COVERAGE

Sportsnight

Wed., Dec. 7, 7-8 p.m.
WVU Sports Hour

Ben Machi and Tannor Lambert host 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., Dec. 7, 8-10 p.m.
The Sportspage

Ben Machi and Tannor Lambert host 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 Football, College Basketball, and the NHL to give listeners wide ranging viewpoints on the sports world's most intriguing storylines.

Women's Basketball



Thur., Dec. 8, 7 p.m.
WVU vs. Robert Morris
Play-by-play: Ben Machi
Color: Zach Anderson

Pregame starts at 6:30 with Sean Tanski and Jonathan Hamilton. They will talk all things WVU women's basketball leading up to the game and will be back for halftime and postgame coverage.

Sun., Dec. 11, 4 p.m.
WVU vs. Penn State
Play-by-play: Ben Machi
Color: Tannor Lambert

Pregame starts at 3:30 with Zach Anderson, Luke Blain, and Jackson Holden. They will talk all things WVU women's basketball leading up to the game and will be back for halftime and postgame coverage.



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Men's basketball to host Navy, UAB at home

BY ZACH ANDERSON
SPORTS EDITOR

The West Virginia men's basketball team will head home for a two-game homestand over the next week, facing off first against the Navy Midshipmen on Wednesday before hosting the much tougher UAB Blazers on Saturday.

The Mountaineers are coming off a hard-fought 84-74 loss against the Xavier Musketeers in their last game on Saturday, Dec. 3. WVU controlled the game before poor second-half shooting and turnovers allowed Xavier to pull away in the final five minutes.

In only WVU's (6-2) second loss of the season, the Mountaineers shot 54% in the first half with 43 points but only shot 39% in the second half with 31 points scored.

The Musketeers took advantage of these second-half mistakes and capitalized on only three field goals in the final seven minutes to pull away from WVU at the end of the game.

It was truly a close game that got away from head coach Bob Huggins and West Virginia, but leading scorer, guard Erik Stevenson, was still



PHOTO BY MEG BARTOLICK

WVU's Emmitt Matthews Jr. (1) works around the defense against Morehead State on Nov. 15, 2022, at the WVU Coliseum in Morgantown, West Virginia.

the team's leading scorer with 16 points on the night, continuing his streak of efficient scoring.

For the Midshipmen, WVU's first matchup of the week on Wednesday, they are coming off two straight losses to Lipscomb and VMI, but they still have accumulated five wins so far on the season.

Navy (5-3) has played every one of its matchups within 10 points, although many of those matchups have been against lesser Division I opponents.

Navy's other loss on the year came against Coppin State, but

the Midshipmen have played in two close losses most recently by eight points or less. They have also defeated a former WVU opponent this season, Mount St. Mary's, 75-59.

The Blazers will be a much tougher challenge for the Mountaineers in this two-game homestand. UAB is coming off an NCAA Tournament appearance last season where they have begun to see a resurgence in their program.

UAB's (7-1) only loss came to Toledo on Nov. 11 and it is coming to Morgantown on a six-game win streak, most re-

cently defeating Rhodes and Jacksonville in dominant fashion before defeating South Alabama on Dec. 4, 76-68.

Tip-off from the WVU Coliseum on Wednesday for the matchup with Navy is set for 7 p.m. The television broadcast will be available on ESPNU. Saturday's game in Morgantown against UAB is set for 6 p.m. with streaming available on ESPN+.

Now here are some players to watch for during Wednesday and Saturday's matchups.

Erik Stevenson, WVU Guard

Transfer guard Erik Stevenson, in every game so far, has continued to be WVU's leading scorer as he still shoots at an efficient clip following a 16-point performance against Xavier on Dec. 3.

Stevenson averages 14.4 points per game, which is still two points ahead of forward Tre Mitchell's 12.1 points per game. Stevenson is also still shooting an outstanding 52.5% from the field and 47.2% from beyond the arc through West Virginia's first eight games.

Stevenson has cemented his role as WVU's primary scoring option but he has also become their vocal leader on the court. Whenever Stevenson is on the court, he acts as a leader for the Mountaineers and he will need to continue to lead, but also score, as the matchups get tougher into Big 12 play.

Tyler Nelson, Navy Forward

The 6-foot-6 senior forward Tyler Nelson has been a versatile talent for the Midshipmen this season, averaging 15.1 points per game, along with 5.9 rebounds, 1.5 assists and 1.5 steals per game.

Although his size may put him at a disadvantage compared to WVU's larger forwards, Jimmy Bell Jr. and

Mohamed Wague, the Mountaineers will still need to be aware of Nelson's all-around scoring ability, with 52.3% shooting from the field and 53.1% shooting from three-point range.

Jordan Walker, UAB Guard

The senior guard from Long Island, New York comes into the new week and the matchup against West Virginia as the nation's leading scorer with 25 points per game on average.

Walker has been scoring at will through UAB's first eight games and he has been the main contributor to the Blazers' success. Alongside his immense scoring output, he averages 4.6 assists, 2.1 steals and shoots 45.7% from the field.

For UAB, Walker is one of those unstoppable scoring talents that the Mountaineers must contain to defeat a Blazers squad that has been red-hot. Despite WVU's guards being known for their defensive ability, it will still be a tall task to guard the nation's highest scorer, even at home in the WVU Coliseum.

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THE DA

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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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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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