



Big Daddy fundraising campaign cut short



WV Tattoo Expo to host over 200 local, national artists this weekend



Expectations high as No. 6 WVU men's soccer enters new conference

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The Daily Athenaeum



dailyathenaeum



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FallFest returns after two-year pandemic break

Students say concert lineup was lacking, but 'you're here and it's free'

BY KATELYN ALUISE
INVESTIGATIONS EDITOR

After two years of online meetings, masks and social distancing, West Virginia University opened its gates to thousands of students Tuesday night to tie off the first Welcome Week since 2019 with its annual FallFest concert series.

This year's lineup featured headliner Polo G and artists Dustin Lynch and the Dirty Heads with Tay Money, best known for her TikTok hit, "The Assignment," leading the way.

The event was anticipated by students across the board: seniors who never thought they would attend the series again, juniors who have never had the chance and freshmen who have only heard rumors.

Leading up to the event, WVU Arts and Entertainment released an email to students asking who they wanted to see in concert. The survey was also released over the course of the summer in a series of Tweets from @wvuevents.

When the names of the performers finally dropped, students responded on Twitter with anger and disappointment, with one comment from @rachaelstratiff saying, "We have



PHOTOS BY RYLAN NEMESH

Students enjoy a variety of artists and genres at WVU's FallFest on Aug. 16, 2022.

been robbed."

In the past, FallFest concerts have featured performances from Grammy-nominated artists such as Kanye West, Ludacris and Maroon 5 among others. This year, none of the artists were Grammy-nominated, with some of them rising to fame in just the last few years with their music becoming popular on TikTok.

Still, WVU students did not let this stop them from having their token Mountaineer experience.

"I think being in the middle of everybody, feeling that energy, letting it run through you and you get excited, even for music artists that you probably would never have bought a ticket to," senior student Lauren White said. "You're here, and it's free."

White attended FallFest in both 2018 and 2019, and she was excited about the event's return.

Like many students expressing their opinions online, White was not familiar with the line-up prior to this

year's FallFest as she was in previous years. Even so, she thinks the event was worth attending, regardless of the artists, just to feel the excitement of the other students as a way to kick off the semester.

"I'm not disappointed. I would have been here even if it was the Wiggles, you know?"

Samantha Mariano, a senior student, said that she was disappointed in the line-up this year, mainly because the event gained notoriety

from having so many widely-known musicians in the past.

Mariano still made the most of her last chance at attending FallFest, but she wished she could have felt like her recommendations for performers were acknowledged.

Claudia DiLima, a junior student who had only heard stories about FallFest, said she feels that the university did the best they could, providing enough space for everyone to sit or stand, as well as a free food option and easy access, even though their music choices were not as easy to dance along with.

The Daily Athenaeum spoke to a number of other students who felt the lineup was lacking but ultimately said they still enjoyed the event.

The event started off slow, with many students sitting away from the stage during the opening performance. But, as the sun went down, the beat picked up.

After Polo G's late arrival, the field was soon covered with students dancing, smiling and spending time with their peers before the first day of classes.

"It's better than I expected," DiLima said.

More than half of WVU's blue lights out of service

BY JULES OGDEN
NEWS EDITOR

Haley Jones is one of many prospective students who were told about WVU's blue light emergency call system last year while touring campus.

During her tour, Jones and her family noticed a number of the blue

lights were broken. She said her tour guide assured the lights would be fixed and operational by the time she returned as a freshman.

"My dad was just really anxious about me going to college in general," Jones said. "He was more okay with me coming because of all the safety measures that they put in place."

But now, as Jones and thousands of other freshmen begin their first

week of classes, more than half of the blue lights across campus are out of service.

The Daily Athenaeum spoke with over a dozen other freshmen who say they were also told about the blue lights while touring WVU in the last year.

A majority of the blue lights, which the DA investigated across WVU's Morgantown campuses, were

wrapped in caution tape and had missing parts or broken lights.

Last fall, the DA reported a similar issue, noticing that a number of the blue lights were out of service. However, the University said they had no plans to discontinue the system and that the needed repairs occurred during University Police's routine monthly inspections.

April Kaull, executive director of

communications, confirmed Monday that over half of the 30 blue lights on campus are either in need of repair or unable to be used due to a discontinued network. She said repairing units has been difficult due to supply chain issues caused by the pandemic.

See Lights page 3



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AUGUST 14
1:43 A.M. | Warning
Pi Beta Phi Sorority
Under Age Consumption.

AUGUST 14
9:11 A.M. | Forwarded
Dadisman Hall
Talk With Officer.

AUGUST 14
12:31 P.M. | Resolved
Vandalia Hall Blue
Prop Alarm.

AUGUST 14
1:20 P.M. | Resolved
Rec Center
Assist EMS Police.

AUGUST 14
5:05 P.M. | Resolved

University Park
Parking Complaint.

AUGUST 14
6:24 P.M. | Unfounded
Vandalia Hall Blue
Prop Alarm.

AUGUST 14
10:16 P.M. | Unfounded
College Park
Prop Alarm.

AUGUST 14
11:25 P.M. | Inactive
University Place Parking
Elevator Rescue.

AUGUST 14
11:50 P.M. | Resolved
Vandalia Hall Gold
Elevator Rescue.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENTS



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Vannah Lusk
@vannahlusk23

When I am 87 yrs old I will still be invested and highly critical of the WVU FallFest line-up



HereBeSpiders11 is vaccinated
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Welcome to [#Morgantown](#), students!
Please be aware of the following as you stock up on groceries [#wvu](#)



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NEWS

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Morgantown, University police manage ongoing officer shortages

BY KATELYN ALUISE
INVESTIGATIONS EDITOR

Life in Morgantown is picking up again as students flood the city for another semester at West Virginia University. Meanwhile, local law enforcement is coming up short-handed.

Danielle Trumble, deputy mayor and fifth ward city councilor, brought attention to Morgantown Police Department's lull in police applicants during a city council meeting last month. Local police departments are currently working towards bringing their numbers back up without having to limit their coverage of the city.

Morgantown Police Chief Eric Powell said that he has 76 allotted officer positions, with only 59 of those positions filled at this time. He said the shortage has been an ongoing but gradual trend, although lately it has become more pronounced.

Powell said the reason for the shortage is a combination of a high attrition rate from re-



PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

Morgantown Police Chief Eric Powell photographed in front of the Morgantown Police Department on Sept. 16, 2020.

tiring officers and those seeking employment elsewhere, as well as an inability to quickly certify officers due to the West Virginia Police Academy temporarily closing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Powell said he suspects the

decrease in the number of applicants is also due to a decline in interest because of the danger associated with being an officer and an overall growing stigma of officers being "aggressive" or "biased."

Sherry St. Clair, chief of the

University Police Department at WVU said that the University is experiencing a similar shortage, with only 36 out of the 49 allotted officer positions filled. Almost two years ago, there were 57 available officer positions, although St. Clair has made eight of those positions into Campus Safety Officers, unarmed officers that pick up enforcement around campus.

Beyond hiring new officers, St. Clair said the UPD turnover rate is still higher than it was before the pandemic. In 2019, the department lost five officers and has lost 32 in the years since, with some of them moving to part-time to work in other departments.

"In our job, you work all kinds of hours, you work weekends, you work holidays. It's hard on a person, especially someone who has a family," St. Clair said.

To encourage more officers to join the UPD, the University has raised officer salaries to be a more competitive pay, starting at \$22 an hour for an untrained campus safety officer and going up to \$23 after an of-

ficer completes the academy, with some increases in the first three years.

UPD has also changed officer shifts so they can take more time off in a row, have vacation, sick days and benefits.

Powell said MPD has "streamlined" the applications process by increasing the frequency of officer testing. The department has also started an outreach program, in which senior staff communicate with potential applicants to guide and encourage them through the process.

MPD now has a study guide for applicants to use to help them pass their training, as well as a website to provide applicants with a "snapshot" of the department.

At the moment, Powell expects four officers to start the academy in January.

As far as coverage goes, neither St. Clair nor Powell think their service will be greatly affected by the shortage.

For UPD, St. Clair said filling positions is a matter of moving personnel from other departments to shift-duty around campus.

Powell said MPD still has an average response time to 911 calls of three to four minutes. As far as helping UPD with campus coverage, Powell noted that officers will be stretched thin and that officers for special events will need to be used more "efficiently."

He said other agencies have reached out saying they are unable to respond to as many 911 calls due to a lack of staffing, but MPD has not reached that point and will continue to prioritize calls.

"Service is not diminished," Powell said. "We are still out there, answering calls, resolving problems. If you have a doubt about calling the police and the reason for your doubt is because of staffing issues, and you think it's not important enough, call anyway. We will try to help you in any way we can. Do not let whatever thoughts you have about our ability to respond inhibit you from calling the police."

Officer applications can be found at City Hall or on the Morgantown city website.

Lights

Continued from page 1

She added that UPD is in the process of replacing the caution tape on the lights with signage directing students to call 911, as well as use the LiveSafe app. The University has encouraged use of the mobile app as an alternative since 2014.

Kaull said the University will work with student groups like SGA in the future to determine whether the blue lights should still be a resource on campus.

"We've seen utilization of the blue light call boxes steadily decrease in recent years as the number of students, faculty, staff and campus visitors with personal mobile phones has increased," Kaull said. "Since 2019, there have been fewer than 10 legitimate emergencies or safety concerns communicated through the WVU Emergency Call System."

There are currently 14,000 LiveSafe users at WVU, according to Kaull.

Today, maps of blue lights around campus are not available.

"I mean, we still recommend them," University Po-

lice Chief Sherry St. Clair said, adding that she's interested in learning what students would prefer. "They're still there. We haven't haven't done anything with them."

Madison Moonen, a third-year orientation leader and student, said that she is encouraged to advertise the blue lights to new and prospective students when she conducts tours and was never informed that they may no longer be a resource.

Though orientation leaders aren't given a script for the blue lights, Moonen said during their training they participate in a brainstorming session to come up with resources they could advertise based on their personal experiences.

According to Moonen, the emergency call systems are always encouraged during training and often advertised to students.

"That's like one of the biggest things that I bring up like whenever I get asked about safety on campus," she said.

Moonen said the admissions office, which works directly with orientation leaders, is good about updating them about changes on campus; however, she wasn't aware of the out-of-service blue lights

until she saw a recent tweet from a former student.

"Usually with things changing all the time, they always make sure to give us updates on like 'oh hey, remember to mention this changed' or like, you know, that kind of stuff to where if something changes or isn't being offered, they usually let us know," said Moonen, adding that she was shocked to see so many call boxes out of service on Twitter.

Kaull said the University recommends students, faculty and staff to follow @WVUalert and @WVUsafety on Twitter and WVU Safety and Wellness on Facebook for updates on campus safety.

She added that UPD is in the process of replacing the caution tape on the broken lights with signage directing students to call 911 or to use the LiveSafe app, in addition to reaching out to student groups like SGA to determine whether they should continue to invest in the blue light system.

Though students continue to be told about the blue light system, the University has encouraged the mobile app as an alternative since its introduction in 2014.

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years as the number of students, faculty, staff and campus visitors with personal mobile phones has increased," Kaull said. "Since 2019, there have been fewer than 10 legitimate emergencies or safety concerns communicated through the WVU Emergency Call System."

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PHOTO BY TRENTON STRAIGHT

A broken emergency call box on the Mountainlair Green on Aug. 11, 2022.

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Big Daddy's fundraising campaign cut short

BY CHRISTINA RUFO
BREAKING NEWS EDITOR

Over the summer, Protect Morgantown has battled with firearms retailer Big Daddy Guns over the opening of the company's new storefront downtown. The group of residents has continually expressed safety concerns with the location of the business.

Earlier this month, the gun company challenged Protect Morgantown to a fundraising campaign, as part of the Monongalia County Deputy Sheriff's Association's annual drive for students in need.

Whichever group earned the least amount of money would have needed to "cease their operation" in Morgantown, as part of Big Daddy's Challenge. However, Protect Morgantown was quick to decline the offer.

Just days before it was expected to end, the Deputy Sheriff's Association unexpectedly brought the fundraiser to a close, according to Big Daddy spokesperson Nicholas Lahera.

"At the request of the Monongalia County, WV Deputy Sheriff's Association, we ended our fundraiser earlier than expected," Lahera said, in a press release. "They in-

formed us that they decided to end their solicitation period early, but would still be pleased to accept the donation to help the program."

A day later, the Deputy Sheriff's Association issued a statement clarifying Big Daddy didn't receive an exclusive invitation to the fundraiser. All businesses in the county were asked to participate, not just Big Daddy.

"The Monongalia County Deputy Sheriff's Association does not approve of any fundraising competitions on our behalf," Detective Sergeant Jonathan Friend of the Deputy Sheriff's Association said in an email. "While we appreciate the support of all businesses that participate in providing donations, we as an Association maintain a position of neutrality in controversial community matters."

Jodi Hollingshead, leader of Protect Morgantown, was also unimpressed by the fundraiser.

"It was very transparently a media stunt and an effort to win the favor of the community, and I think it didn't go quite the way they planned," Hollingshead said. "So our plan was to just respond respectfully and decline, as it is an un-winnable challenge for

us since we are a grassroots effort of three to five people going up against a company with multiple retail locations."

At the close of the fundraiser, Big Daddy Guns raised a total of \$3,000 which will fund 10 students in the upcoming school year.

"If they truly cared about the students, the underserved students in Monongalia County they would have just written a check and they would not continue their efforts to open a gun store downtown," Hollingshead said.

Since the end of the fundraiser, not much has transpired between the two groups, according to Hollingshead.

Protect Morgantown is not alone in opposing the gun retailer. Throughout the summer, Big Daddy Guns has been the center of debate during city council meetings, leading a number of local residents, local lawmakers and company officials to speak out about the store opening downtown.

Most notably, opposers of the gun retailer brought attention to Big Daddy's online presence and close proximity to local schools, including Morgantown High and WVU's downtown campus.

Sherrie McKnight, co-owner of Big Daddy Guns,



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN FERREIRO

Big Daddy Guns will be housed at the Deck, a property of Hardy World LLC located at 1050 University Avenue in Morgantown.

flew from Florida to Morgantown to address council members during a regular meeting in June.

Near the end of July, intended neighboring tenants, Starbucks, pulled out of their contract to open a store at The Deck due to the controversy around Big Daddy Guns following a conference call with Hollingshead.

In a letter addressed to "partners," and provided to The Dominion Post, District

Manager Lee Ann Mahute and Regional Director Dave Thomas confirmed that Starbucks would be pulling out of the development.

Starbucks said they decided not to move forward with their opening due to safety concerns from local residents.

Employees that were already hired for The Deck Starbucks location will be relocated to other Starbucks locations nearby, according to the letter.

In an interview with the Daily Athenaeum, Hollingshead said that it's now up to Hardy World LLC to decide whether Big Daddy Guns will open. But the property owner has given no indication it will intervene.

Protect Morgantown will hold a public meeting on Thursday, Aug. 18, at 6 p.m. at the Waterfront Marriott. Hollingshead said officials from Hardy have been invited to attend.



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TUSCAN SPA AND SALON.COM

Back in style: Vintage Fest returns for its third year

BY AUBREY BURKHARDT
STAFF WRITER

Vintage Fest is coming back to Morgantown this weekend with 35 vendors and a variety of food trucks.

Gallery 304, a vintage clothing store located in downtown Morgantown, will host the event at Edith Barrell Riverfront Park in Star City on Sunday. Vendors will be set up from noon to 8 p.m. with free admission.

The event will take place just under a year after Gallery 304 hosted the first Star City Vintage Fest last August.

Last year, Gallery 304's owner Nathaniel Hart said Morgantown has a high demand for vintage products but has a minimal selection of vintage shops in town.

Vintage Fest will offer Morgantown residents a chance to

shop from a variety of vendors from parts of West Virginia and neighboring states like Pennsylvania and Maryland.

"I think there's maybe more PA vendors than West Virginia vendors actually," Hart said.

Hart said that the event will feature both new and returning vendors.

"There are some vendors that weren't able to make it to the first one or two, and then there's others who just heard about it and asked," Hart said.

Hart looks forward to seeing what all the vendors bring.

"I'm kind of just excited to see what everyone brings," he said. "Because I think that's one of the cool things about it is you never really know what's going to pop up or what you're going to find."

Which each event, Hart said they track greater variety in clothing. From crewnecks to vintage tees, Vintage Fest will



PHOTO COURTESY NATHANIEL HART

Vintage Fest shoppers during the first event at Edith Barrell Riverfront Park.

feature a wide range of vintage wear.

"I think anyone can really come and find something they like," he said.

To find more information about Vintage Fest, head over to @wvintagefest on Instagram.

WV Tattoo Expo to host over 200 local, national artists this weekend

BY LARA BONATESTA
CULTURE EDITOR

The annual West Virginia Tattoo Expo is returning to Morgantown for the first time this year after a two-year pandemic hiatus. This will be the event's 8th year running and its ten year anniversary.

"It's been rough not having it because through the pandemic, we haven't been able to see some of our tattooed family in years and now that we're finally able to have it back," Rocco Cunningham, the event's founder, promoter and organizer said. "Everybody is so excited to be back in Morgantown for the weekend."

The tattoo expo will be held from Friday, Aug. 19, to Sunday, Aug. 21, at the Morgantown Event Center.

The WV Tattoo Expo will feature over 200 tattoo artists from around the nation. Some local Morgantown favorites that will be attending include Wild Zero Studios, PattysArtsSpot and Country Roads Tattoo.

In addition to the artists there will also be various food vendors on site, a Miss Tattooed West Virginia pageant and various other contests taking place.

"I really wanted to show-



PHOTO COURTESY ROCCO CUNNINGHAM

Attendees visit booths at the West Virginia Tattoo Expo.

case and represent West Virginia the best that I could and also represent the tattoo world the best I could," Cunningham said.

The West Virginia Tattoo Expo is a family friendly event for people of all ages whether or not they are interested in getting a tattoo.

"Even if you don't get a tattoo it's still really something to see with that many different artists in one place, the different styles of art and the different applications. It's truly something to see," he said.

Cunningham, who is a proud West Virginia University alumni, also said that the tattoo expo is a popular event for WVU students looking for

something to do.

"It's like that back to school weekend tradition. Students like the expo, come be a part of it. And that feels awesome to know because being a West Virginian and a mountaineer, that means a lot to us," he said.

Cunningham, a Clarksburg native, has been in the tattoo industry for years, getting his first tattoo 19 years ago as a junior in high school.

"I went to a private Catholic school, so yeah you can imagine how well that went," Cunningham said.

Cunningham later went to WVU to study political science and passed on the opportunity to go law school to pursue tattooing. Cunningham

now owns Pike Street Studios in Bridgeport, West Virginia.

"From when I started to now, there's much less of a stigma involved in tattoos in general and we love to see that they're so much more widely accepted and appreciated. And it's been fun to see that happen," he said.

Cunningham noted that tattoo safety and education are both top priorities that will be relayed to attendees at the expo.

"We work with the Mon County Health Department. And they come, they inspect, they sign off on every booth, he said. "We do it right because we want it to be a safe environment and also, we want to help show anyone that is interested in getting tattoos, or the first tattoo even, what professional tattooers are, what professional tattoos should look like."

Tickets are available at the ticket booth every day and appointments are optional.

A \$5 discount will be offered to WVU students and military veterans who bring their ID. Entry will be free for children under 12.

More information about the event is available at the WV Tattoo Expo website, on Facebook or on Instagram @WVTattooExpo.

Three things to do this weekend in Morgantown

CHRISTINA RUFO
BREAKING NEWS EDITOR

1 Outdoor Concerts

Kittens Ain't Biscuits, Randy and Daria Jones will be performing at the West Virginia Botanic Garden on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. The duo plays originals and covers with Randy on electric and acoustic guitar, while Daria sings and plays percussion, harmonica and kazoo. All ages are welcome to join on the Event Lawn with blankets or camping chairs. Admission is \$5 for botanical garden members and \$10 for non-members. Guests can register in advance here.

Alternative rock band Sister Hazel will be performing a free concert on the river at Ruby Amphitheater on Friday, Aug. 19, at 8 p.m. Sister Hazel formed in 1993 in Gainesville, Florida, and consists of five members including vocalist/guitarist Ken Block, guitarist/vocalist Andrew Copeland, lead guitarist Ryan Newell, bassist Jett Beres and drummer Mark Trojanowski.

The Company Stores, a modern Appalachian rock band from West Virginia will be opening the show at 6:30 p.m. with a show consisting of rock, folk and soul.

This will be one of the last concerts of the Ruby Summer Concert Series, with only two more weekend performances following this week's show.

2 Morgantown Farmers Market

The Morgantown Farmers Market will be held Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at the Morgantown Market Place, located at 400 Spruce Street.

The market provides opportunities to farmers in the local area and provides ed-

ucation about food, farming and food access via SNAP.

All of the products offered by vendors are produced within 50 miles of Morgantown. Attendees can shop for seasonal vegetables, fruits, herbs, meats, eggs, honey, syrup, seedlings, flour and other dried goods, as well as cut flowers, baked goods and more.

SNAP EBT cards are accepted, and money can be exchanged for tokens at the market table.

Parking is available around the market at various pay to park locations. It is recommended that shoppers bring their own tote bags to carry their groceries.

3 Taste of Morgantown

The 12th annual Taste of Morgantown will take this Sunday at the Aquatic Center & Track Complex at Mylan Park from 2-6 p.m.

During this event, attendees will participate in a local tasting experience that combines food, festivities and community. Some of North Central West Virginia's best restaurants and food trucks will showcase their unique cuisine and compete for several culinary awards.

There will be a new outdoor location for guests to sit on the lawn, listen to live music, gather around the food and beer trucks and take in the view.

Attendees can participate in a variety of samplings and vote for their favorites.

Although admission and food/beverage tickets will be sold day of at the event gate, tickets can also be purchased in advance for 50% off before Aug. 16.

Event proceeds support local community services provided by nonprofit organizations Mylan Park Properties and the American Red Cross.



OPINION

Eliminating free parking will worsen economic pressure on WVU students

BY LUKE MORGAN
OPINION EDITOR

Finding free parking in Morgantown already seemed like an impossible feat for students. Now, with a parking fee at the Coliseum, it will only get worse.

Earlier this month, University officials announced they would be adding a parking fee at the Coliseum to pay for ongoing construction and maintenance. And it's unclear whether the fee will be here to stay in future years.

The Coliseum has historically served as a safe haven for students who cannot afford passes or hourly parking rates across campus. Now, with inflation and the rising cost of being a student at WVU, the added parking fee is just another bill students have to pay.

Drivers now pay \$1.25, including added fees from the ParkMobile app. It's important to note that 20% of the user fee doesn't go to WVU, instead lining the pockets of a third-party mobile application.

Rather than making this a day pass, University officials are requiring students to pay each time they use the lot. And many students drive between campuses multiple times a day.

With this announcement, University officials direct students towards public transportation or a campus park-



PHOTO COURTESY WVU

Available as free parking in previous years, the WVU Coliseum will charge drivers \$1.25 each time they use the lot.

ing pass as an alternative. But parking passes are in limited supply, and many students cannot afford to dish out hundreds of dollars for them each school year.

On one level, it's understandable that the University would raise funds for in-

frastructure projects around campus. Certainly, a pay-to-use model is fairer than charging a flat fee to all students, regardless of whether they park at the Coliseum.

Compared to other options, the Coliseum is still one of the cheapest places to park

in Morgantown. Drivers can pay \$1.25 to park at the Coliseum or an hourly rate of \$1.50 at the Mountainlair; parking at the Coliseum is a much better deal.

But nothing beats parking for free, especially since the Coliseum has been a free al-

ternative for decades.

However, the elimination of virtually all free parking options on campus is just the tip of the iceberg. Students continue to face rising costs due to inflation and tuition hikes in recent years.

This summer alone, the

WVU Board of Governors approved a tuition increase of more than 2.5% for all students this academic year, in addition to other student fees.

If tuition fees were lowered or stable, then a parking fee at the Coliseum would make more sense. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

From tuition to parking, price increases arrive at a time when inflation is already devastating consumers. In past months, interest rates have increased and more could be on the way, according the Federal Reserve.

College students are uniquely affected by changes in interest rates for student loans. Even a small percentage change in the interest of student loans can result in huge costs for borrowers in the future.

At the same time, students at WVU are facing rising costs, which school administrators attribute to financial challenges posed by the pandemic.

With these ongoing challenges, the University should do its part in providing a little bit of relief to struggling students by continuing to offer some free parking options on campus. Though a \$1.25 doesn't seem like a lot, every penny counts for college students.

The reality is that everyone is facing economic hardship, including WVU. But so are its students.

The DA staff's dorm room essentials

BY DA STAFF

Coffeemaker

Coffee is one of the most versatile drinks. Cold, hot, sweet or bitter. It doesn't matter. Every type of coffee is delicious. Whether you need a little energy to write a paper or you're grappling with inescapable loneliness, the answer is coffee. Bonus points for style if it's a French Press. -Luke, Opinion Editor

Water Pitcher with a Filter

Water: the most essential component to all life is unsurprisingly equally important to college life. If the tap water in your dorm is perpetually plagued with particles, mysterious coatings of oils and general murkiness, split the cost

of a filtered pitcher with your roomies. It's a must! -Caroline Murphy, Multimedia Director

First-aid Kit

You never know when you'll need something as simple as a bandaid, especially when

you're attending West Virginia University. Have you seen all the hills? Before you decide to go sledding down Woodburn Hill, make sure you have a first aid kit. -Ladimir, Social Media Manager

Pens and Pencils

If the pretty girl in your class needs one, you can give her one. It'll be a beautiful story to tell the grand kids. -Sydney, Podcast Editor

Post-it Notes

Remember your new email, passwords, assignments and that cute girl's phone number. These can be stuck anywhere, from books to fridges and even on windows to communicate to the kids in the dorm across the street. If you don't want to forget your freshman year, write it on a post-it note. -Katelyn, Investigations Editor

Daddy's Credit Card

You might need to buy that \$40 throw pillow or \$100 worth of food you can't cook in your room. Don't leave your parents, or their bank accounts, behind. -Zach, Sports Editor

Amazon Prime Student Account

Whether you need it for those Halloween costumes or the school supplies you "for-

got," that two day shipping comes in handy when you are in a bind. -Emma, Assistant Sports Editor

Freezer Meals

If the dining hall menu isn't your favorite, microwavable back-up meals are a lifesaver. At the least you will know your food is fully cooked! -Jules, News Editor

A Planner and/or Whiteboard Calendar

Balance your syllabi and your social schedule. Writing down all of your due dates will make sure you do not miss those easy 5 point discussion board, while still making sure you are fashionably late to Sigma Apple Pie's 80's in Aspen mixer. -Raeanne, Managing Editor





The Daily Athenaeum is now hiring Media Consultants!

The DA is looking for students with a passion for marketing and communications to join our PR and Sales Team.



Qualifications & Info

- Students in Marketing, Communications, PR, or similar majors preferred, but not required
- Must be a full-time student at WVU
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- 10 hours/week





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Pet of the Week



PHOTO BY PAIGE CHEATHAM

Stella is an almost 3 year old German Shepard. She is super sweet and loves to cuddle, run,] and play fetch. She gives the best hugs and is the most loyal dog ever! Aside from basic obedience tricks like sit and stay, Stella can also give you her most professional handshake. Stella's favorite treats are rawhides or whatever she can steal from the table.

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

CROSSWORD

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31 Meets
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35 Acid drug
37 Dorothy's dog
38 Decorative needle case
39 Sports event
41 Farm tool for turning earth
45 Came
46 Prepare ground for planting
47 Lyric poem
50 Stiffen
52 Verse meter
53 Forest clearing
54 More friendly
55 Right angle to a ships length
56 Unwanted insects
59 What a leaf comes from
60 Matching
62 Ventilates
63 Lazy
64 For fear that
66 Genetic code
68 Expression of surprise

For answers, visit thedaonline.com

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

Sudoku puzzle brought to you by Jim Bumgardner at krazydad.com

For answers, visit thedaonline.com

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Expectations high for Neal Brown

Feeling the pressure ahead of fourth season at West Virginia

BY ZACH ANDERSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Since West Virginia head football coach Neal Brown was hired in the winter of 2019 out of Troy University, he has been an exceptional leader, skillful at bringing in new talent and has acted as a wonderful representative of the state of West Virginia.

However, the Mountaineers' play on the field has been average at best since his tenure began, with Brown boasting a record slightly below .500 at 17-18 across three seasons. Most of these struggles have been out of his control but in an important year for his career, he has been forced to make some changes.

With the 2022 season just two weeks away, Brown and staff face internal pressures and expectations higher than ever to create an elite football program to compete in the Big 12. With average results so far, impatience from fans will cause them to seek better performance from the Mountaineer football team going forward.

However, Brown has taken

these issues head-on to begin the 2022 cycle, potentially putting the odds in his favor for the first time in his tenure. This includes the addition of highly touted offensive coordinator Graham Harrell and his new offensive scheme.

Harrell, former NFL quarterback and Heisman candidate at Texas Tech in 2008, comes into Morgantown from the University of Southern California with his new offensive playbook, installing a more pass heavy look for WVU in 2022, along with the utilization of more tight ends and some spread formations. Harrell also has the charisma to make his players buy into the system and has a special skill developing quarterbacks, West Virginia's number one issue to address.

Harrell's offense at USC in 2021 was one of the best in the country too, ranking 25th in total yards, 18th in passing yards and total passing yards per game, according to ESPN. Brown will hand the reins of the offense over to Harrell and relinquish all play calling duties in the new season, taking away some pressure from coach Brown and allow-

ing him to manage the game rather than call plays.

Something special about this season as well is the installation of Brown's first full recruiting class. Many of the players on the current roster have been under Brown's management and understand his system better than anyone, including the addition of a strong 2022 class that ranked 34th in the country ahead of teams like USC, Arizona State, Wisconsin and Baylor, per 247Sports.

Having many of Brown's handpicked players on the team along with impactful freshman joining the roster, it builds chemistry among the entire team and helps everyone understand the programs' goals and expectations.

Also mixing into the recruited talent are transfer athletes finding a new home on the WVU football team. These transfers are experienced and many highly rated transfers that Brown brought in will make an immediate impact in 2022.

JT Daniels out of Georgia will be competing for the starting spot after three years of playing experience at USC

and Georgia, coming to West Virginia this season. Brown also added Colorado State tight end Brian Polendey and linebacker Tirek Austin-Cave from Miami (FL), both of which will have a rotational role on offense and defense respectively.

Despite suffering the losses of wide receiver Winston Wright Jr., defensive lineman Akheem Mesidor and linebacker Josh Chandler-Semedo, Brown has been able to fill in those gaps with freshman stars and experienced transfers to create a squad that fits his desired environment.

Even with many issues addressed, the Big 12 consistently offers a challenging schedule each season for the Mountaineers, with road games at Texas, Iowa State, Oklahoma State, and Texas Tech coming this season.

With the Big 12 gauntlet alongside the two rivalry matchups, Pitt and Virginia Tech, it will be up to Brown, his coaching staff, and his players to perform up to expectations. With more eyes than ever on the football program, Brown's job may be on the line in 2022.

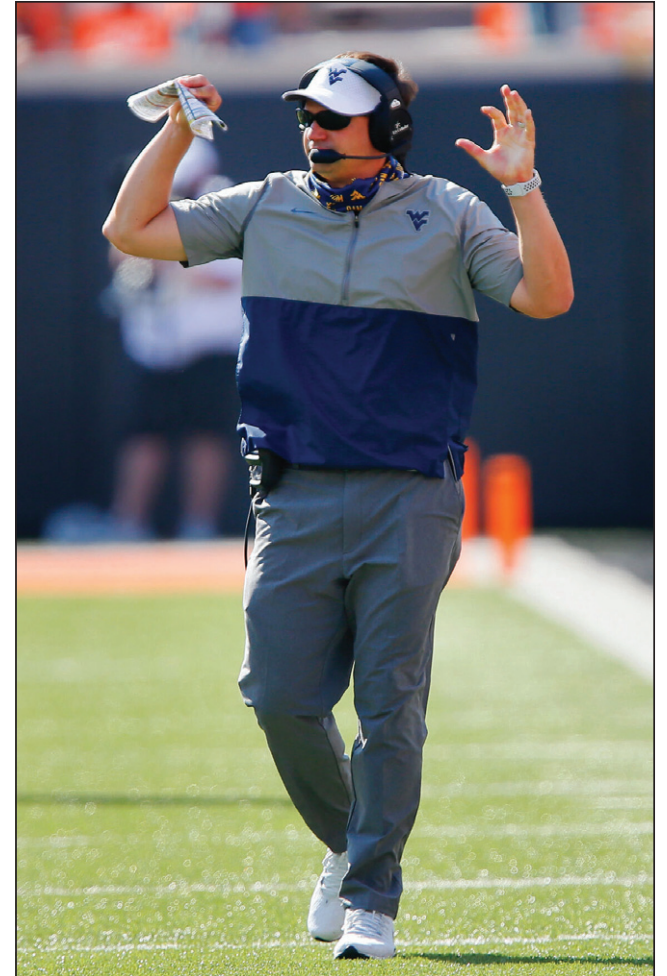


PHOTO BY BRIAN BAHR

Head coach Neal Brown of the West Virginia Mountaineers reacts to a penalty during a game against the Oklahoma State Cowboys in the second quarter on September 26, 2020 at Boone Pickens Stadium in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

New faces, old rivalries: WVU football anticipates a challenging 2022 season

BY EMMA SCOTT
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

There are a lot of fresh faces in WVU football this season, with the team seeing 11 transfers and one of the largest recruiting classes since before the pandemic. At the same time, the Mountaineers will face some of the most challenging matchups in recent years.

The "Backyard Brawl," a matchup against Pitt that hasn't happened in over a decade, is just over two weeks away. The battle is set to begin

at Acrisure Stadium in Pittsburgh on Sept. 1 at 7 p.m.

Head coach Neal Brown has not addressed the starting quarterback situation, so it's unclear who will lead the offense out in front of the hostile Pittsburgh environment.

Georgia transfer JT Daniels comes in with more playing experience than any signal-caller on WVU's roster, with one full season and a game as a starter at USC and half a season of starting play at UGA. Two of those seasons ended in an injury.

West Virginia is already scheduled for three night

games, two of which — Virginia Tech and Pittsburgh — will be on the road along with a Thursday night home matchup against Baylor.

When it comes to the Mountaineers' roster, Nicco Marchiol and Garrett Greene's names are still being considered in the starting quarterback competition alongside Daniels.

West Virginia will also retain interior lineman Zach Frazier in 2022, who will be coming into his sophomore season as a starter on the offensive line. Frazier is returning after being awarded Second Team

All-American (Walter Camp) honors a season ago.

Tackle Wyatt Milum, named to The Athletic Freshman All-American Team last season, is another young returning star on the offensive line.

Some returners at wide receiver are Sam James and Bryce Ford-Wheaton, who are both returning for their junior seasons and will be expected to make progress in leading a young wide receiver room.

Though the Mountaineers lost top linebacker Josh Chandler-Semedo to the transfer portal, they have multiple players including Lance Dixon

and junior college transfer Lee Kpogba who are looking to step up and take leadership of that group.

For offense, the four running backs returning are Tony Mathis Jr., Jaylen Anderson, Justin Johnson Jr. and former tight end converted to running back CJ Donaldson. Mathis is slated to start, with Donaldson and Johnson Jr. seeing the field some as backups.

As for the defensive side of the ball, Dante Stills is now under pressure to perform great for his senior season, for his team and himself. However, from the sounds of it, the de-

fensive side of the ball will be locked and loaded for the season, with newcomers in cornerback Rashad Ajayi, linebacker Tirek Austin-Cave and Kpogba making major impacts this season.

On special teams, Casey Legg will be returning for his senior season coming back with one heck of a leg for WVU.

Going into Brown's fourth year at WVU, many are looking for a positive surge in performance, with three full years of Big 12 competition and his first full recruiting class under his belt.

Expectations high as No. 6 WVU men's soccer enters new conference

BY JAKE HOWARD
STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia men's soccer team has big shoes to fill, coming off a record-breaking season and ranking first in its new conference. The key for WVU can be summed up in one word: continuity.

A season ago, the Mountaineers went 12-3-6 (4-1-1 MAC) in the Mid-American Conference. This season, however, they'll face off in the Sunbelt Conference, which they have been predicted to win in a preseason coaches poll.

In 2021, WVU went to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament for the second time in program history, falling to Georgetown in the Elite Eight. Since then, not much has changed for the Mountaineers.

For the West Virginia, nine players who made a significant amount of starts for the team are returning for 2022.

The 2022 season will also bring another first, as the Mountaineers will be without the WVU record holder in minutes played and two-time All-MAC selection Steven Tekesky at goalkeeper.

WVU head soccer coach Dan Stratford said that the open competition at goalkeeper between sophomore Marc Bonnaire and Jackson Lee, a junior transfer from George Mason is "effectively a two-man race," adding that freshman Lorenzo Nunez and fifth-year captain Jacob Castro would be "right in amongst that" if not injured.

No. 6 ranked WVU will also be without former co-captain and starting centre back Kevin Morris, who set program re-



PHOTO BY GUS SCHLOMER

Ciro Bourlot Jaeggi (9) blows a kiss to the camera during 2-1 victory over Georgia State at The Dick Dlesk Soccer Stadium on Oct. 28, 2021.

records for minutes and games played in his fifth and final season. The Mountaineers will also be without striker Yoran Popovic and midfielder Pau Jimenez Albelda.

Fortunately for West Virginia, junior striker Ciro Bourlot Jaeggi led the team in goals last season, despite only starting seven games. And Finnish central midfielder Ryan Crooks made some starts last season, potentially giving WVU easy in-house replacements.

Headlining the other returning players for the Mountaineers are centre back Bjorne Thiesen, central midfielder Ryan Baer and right-winger

Luke McCormick.

Thiesen, a junior from Kiel, Germany, was named the 26th best player in 2021 following a Third-Team All-American season. Baer, a junior from Huntsville, North Carolina, was selected to the Third Team All-North Region by United Soccer Coaches.

McCormick, a senior from Derby, England, was named to the All-MAC First Team and led the Mountaineers in goals last season.

West Virginia will begin its season at home, opening up at Dick Dlesk Soccer Stadium against Robert Morris on Aug. 25 at 7 p.m.

Doege back in transfer portal, leaving WKU

BY ZACH ANDERSON
SPORTS EDITOR

Former WVU quarterback Jarret Doege has left his third college after re-entering his name in the NCAA transfer portal on Sunday, leaving Western Kentucky after competing for the starting position in fall camp.

Max Olson of The Athletic confirmed the report on Sunday night.

WKU was Doege's third school during his college career, making stops at Bowling Green and spending two seasons at WVU before entering the transfer portal at the end of the 2021 season.

Doege was competing for the starting spot with fellow transfer quarterback Austin Reed out of the University of West Florida. He leaves West-



PHOTO BY WVU ATHLETICS
Former West Virginia senior quarterback Jarret Doege.

ern Kentucky with one season of eligibility remaining.

Doege never recorded a snap for the Hilltoppers, but in two seasons at WVU accumulated 5,635 passing yards, 33 passing touchdowns and 16 interceptions.



Western Kentucky QB Jarret Doege has re-entered the transfer portal, @TheAthletic has confirmed.

The WVU transfer was competing with West Florida transfer Austin Reed for the starting QB job.

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WVU volleyball is back, building on first NCAA tournament appearance

BY JONATHAN HAMILTON
SPORTS WRITER

The West Virginia volleyball team will return for the 2022 season with a lot of hope, finishing its last season with a 19-10 record. Last year, the team appeared in its first NCAA Tournament in program history.

WVU finished tied-for-third in the Big 12 with an 8-8 conference record, a conference that includes Texas, which was ranked No. 1 for a majority of the 2021 season, and Baylor, the only team that beat Texas in the regular season. West Virginia played each team twice and was only able to muster a single set in total, taking a set from Baylor but getting completely shut out by the Longhorns.

West Virginia joined six other Big 12 teams in the tournament: Kansas, Kansas State, Texas, Baylor, Iowa State and Texas Tech. The Illinois Fighting Illini of the Big Ten would take down the Mountaineers 3-1 in the first round of the Austin Regional.

The Mountaineers will wel-

come eight freshmen to the team, one of those freshmen who will be making her WVU volleyball debut as a redshirt, setter Kamiah Gibson.

Returning players for WVU include fifth-year outside hitter Adrian Ell, senior libero Natalie Winter, outside hitter junior Skye Stokes and sophomores libero Kristen McBride, middle blocker Madison Page, and outside hitter Brenna Tietz.

West Virginia's players come from all over the country. In fact, only one student on the entire team comes from the state of West Virginia, the aforementioned Stokes of Chester, West Virginia.

The Mountaineers will play in four in-season tournaments in the 2022 season, one of those tournaments being the annual Mountaineer Invitational. WVU will play host to Merrimack College, Binghamton University, and Delaware State at the WVU Coliseum from Sept. 15-16.

Notable out-of-conference opponents for the Mountaineers include matches against Penn State, UCLA, Hawaii, and South Dakota. They will play all of these teams in dif-



PHOTO BY MALIA RICHARDSON

The WVU volleyball team celebrates a point against Penn State on Sept. 17, 2021.

ferent tournaments in the beginning of the season.

The Mountaineers will open Big 12 conference play on Sept. 24, where they will take on Texas Tech at the WVU Coliseum. WVU lost both match-

ups against the Red Raiders last season, losing 1-3 and 2-3 in Morgantown. The home opener for WVU will be on Sept. 15 against Merrimack, during the Mountaineer Invitational.

West Virginia will play an exhibition game against Robert Morris on Friday, Aug. 19, in Moon Township, Pennsylvania, to get prepared for the regular season.

Then, the Mountaineers

will begin their first set of regular season matches on Aug. 26-27 at the Penn State Classic in University Park, Pennsylvania. They will take on Duquesne, Loyola (MD), and the host school, Penn State.

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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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