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Morgantown human rights activist featured in Lizzo's campaign



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WVU's Independent Student Newspaper

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What to know about bill targeting gender-affirming care

BY JULES OGDEN, SABRINA SIEGAN AND LARA BONATESTA

NEWS EDITOR, ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR AND **CULTURE EDITOR**

West Virginia lawmakers are moving a bill that would ban gender-affirming medical care for transgender youth despite concerns from community members and medical professionals.

The bill was introduced in the Senate on Monday after passing the House last week mostly along party lines, 84-10.

Just a day before its passage, dozens of West Virginians — including religious leaders, medical professionals and transgender students spoke out against the legislation during a public hearing at the state Capitol.

Some of the concerns included intrusions of physician-patient relationships and decreased mental health in transgender youth.

Of the concerned attendees was Ash Orr, a transgender organizer and political activist in WV.

'There's just so much misinformation that these delegates are willingly spewing, and there's no one's holding them accountable for their actions," Orr said in an interview with The Daily Athenaeum.

Del. Geoff Foster (R - Putnam), the bill's lead sponsor, was not in attendance for the public hearing due to an alleged scheduling conflict, according to Mountain State Spotlight.

The bill will now be taken up by the Senate Health and Human Resources and Senate Judiciary committees. It would need full passage in the Senate and a signature from the Governor to become a law.

If passed, HB 2007 would prohibit doctors from providing gender-affirming medical care and surgeries to transgender minors.

Here's what you need to know.

During its time in the House Judiciary, HB 2007 was expanded from banning only gender-affirming surgeries to include other gender-affirming care.

Now, the bill rules hormone therapy and puberty blockers as prohibited practices for osteopathic physicians and surgeons to provide to patients younger than 18.

Despite proponents of the bill emphasizing the importance of the ban, medical professionals say that surgical treatment for adolescents doesn't exist in the state.

Kacie Kidd, medical director of the WVU Medicine Gender and Sexual Development Clinic, said no state organization or individual surgeon offers gender-affirming surgeries for adolescents, adding that the first version of the bill had no clinical impact.

"There are no gender-affirming surgeries happening on adolescents



See **Bill** page 4 Individuals gathered at the Capitol for a public hearing on HB 2007 on Feb. 2, 2023.

TikTok ban would impact higher education devices, networks

BY WILLIAM ARNETT

STAFF WRITER

West Virginia lawmakers are moving a bill that would ban TikTok on state government devices and networks, including institutions of higher education.

The state Senate passed the sweeping bill on Wednesday, and it now moves to the House of Delegates for further consideration.

SB 426, which was introduced at the request of Gov. Jim Justice, would require the state Legislature to enact measures to "safeguard against untrustworthy and high-risk technology."

All state agencies, local govern-

ments, county boards of education and institutions of higher education would be required to follow guidelines set by the Chief Information Security Officer (CISO). They would not only have to ban the use of TikTok on their devices but would be required to block them from all systems, networks and locations.

After the Senate's passage of the bill, West Virginia University issued a statement saying it would ban the app on state-owned devices and networks across campus if the legislation becomes law.

"We are aware that the United States government and several states have banned TikTok from governmental devices and systems. The bills currently being considered by the West Virginia Legislature would re-

quire us to remove certain social media platforms from our state-owned devices and restrict access to those programs over our network," Executive Director of Communications April Kaull said. "We will abide by the State of West Virginia's rules relating to TikTok and any other platform or program deemed to present an unacceptable level of cybersecurity risk to the State."

The University uses social media to engage with and recruit students, according to Kaull. She added that 97% of the school's TikTok audience is between 18 and 24 years of age, with 28% being "high school students of recruitable age."

According to lawmakers, future guidelines could include other social media services. But as of now,

the bill would prohibit TikTok in the list of services banned by state government agencies.

The idea of banning TikTok from state government devices first came up in December when Senate Majority Whip Ryan Weld wrote a letter to Justice asking him to ban Tik-Tok as well as WeChat — another app owned by Chinese tech company Tencent — from government devices.

Justice said that he would introduce a bill to ban TikTok from state government devices the following

If the bill becomes law, West Virginia would join the recent rush of states to pass laws looking to get rid of TikTok from state government

Ohio, New Jersey and Wiscon-

sin all banned the social media giant from their state government devices in January joining 22 states with total bans and three others (including West Virginia) with use on some other government devices banned.

The federal government also banned TikTok from their devices when Congress passed the omnibus budget bill in December.

The bans across the nation occur in the wake of both privacy and national security concerns regarding the app's parent company.

SB 426 will now head to the House Judiciary Committee for further consideration. It would need to pass the House and gain a signature from the Governor to become a law.



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FRIDAY 2/10 MOSTLY CLOUDY HIGH 47° - LOW 31°



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Feb. 4 11:34 P.M. | Warning WVU Coliseum Hit and Run.

Feb. 5 1:07 A.M. | Warning Oakland ABCC Violation.

Feb. 5 1:07 A.M. | Warning Willey St. ABCC Violation.

Feb. 5 1:29 A.M. | Resolved College Park Welfare Check.

Feb. 5 3:39 A.M. | Unfounded Boreman South Drug Incident.

Feb. 5
2:13 A.M. | Investigating
Boreman South
Drug Incident.

Feb. 5 7:34 A.M. | Misdemeanor *Seneca Hall*Destruction of Property.

Feb. 5 9:21 A.M. | Misdemeanor *North Spruce St..*Destruction of Property.

9:07 P.M. | Resolved
Oakland
Drug Incident.

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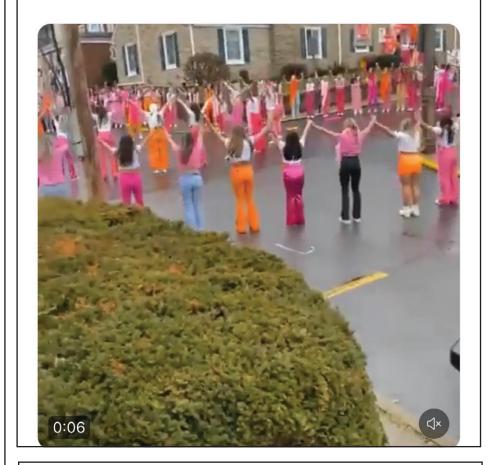


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Gee speaks on campus carry, student enrollment

DA STAFF

WVU President E. Gordon Gee sat down with The Daily Athenaeum last week to discuss a variety of state and campus issues. He spoke about concealed carry on college campuses and the University's ongoing challenges with student enrollment and retention.

The following interview has been edited for clarity and length.

DA: SB 10, the Campus Self-Defense Act, has passed through the state Senate and now awaits further consideration in the House. The bill mentions several provisions where colleges and universities can regulate concealed carry on campus. With that said, does WVU have any plans to implement or update security?

Gee: You know, we have fought this thing for all eight years that I've been here. It has become pervasive around the country. You know, many states have it. So when we saw that they had a supermajority, we made it very clear that the position of the University is that local control is the important component.

We have a great Board of Governors, and they should have the responsibility for being in charge of this. But the Legislature sees that they want to pass a bill. We did a lot of our homework by talking to what happens in other states

— Kansas, Georgia, Texas,
Oklahoma — and we worked
very closely with the sponsors of the bill to carve out all
of the onerous issues. And we
think that we have been very
successful.

If it passes in its present mode in the House and the Governor signs it, we will still have one of the safest campuses in the country. And we take a lot of pride in having negotiated that with the Legislature.

DA: Have there been any discussions of specific security updates on campus?

Gee: Oh, yeah. I mean we obviously are looking very closely at it ... One of the things that we did was to make certain it would not become effective until two years from now. So that gives us plenty of time to make certain that any measures that we need to have, that we take, we'll take care of. I was just at Kansas State, and they have ... a very robust campus carry bill.

I was talking to them about what they did and to their student body president. They've implemented some things. We'll implement all the right things in order to make certain that we are taking good care of our students and our faculty and staff. I mean, needless to say, we're all concerned about it.

DA: Some SGA senators have expressed concerns over campus carry and how it may impact student enroll-



PHOTO BY TRENTON STRAIGHT

WVU President Gordon Gee sits down for an interview with The Daily Athenaeum on Feb. 1, 2023.

ment and retention, as well as faculty retention and recruitment. Do you expect the bill to have an impact on these areas?

Gee: Well, I think because we have made it a bill that does not really impact the day-today living here ... If you take a look at the schools in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas, it is neither affected enrollment nor their faculty.

It's one of those kinds of things that you can talk about in that vein. But frankly, one of the reasons that the bill even has got legs is the fact that the experiences in all these other states and all these other campuses, there have been zero problems.

If there had been some significant issue on one of these

campuses, that would've been a great catalyst for us to be able to talk about it. And I hope that we never have an issue on this campus. But at the same time, the evidence is clear that if you have the right protocols in place, then everything does work out very well.

DA: President Gee, you and other administrators have expressed recent con-

cerns about declining student enrollment. What strategies does the University currently have to combat this decline?

Gee: We are in a time in which four million students have dropped out of college that were supposed to be here this past year. We're in a state in which 55% of the college-going students have now declined to 45%. There's a lot of angst among students about the worth of college. We have a demographic cliff, which is going to be significant.

So what we're doing for that is we're getting very much into the adult education business. We're getting very much into the online education business. We are widening our swath in terms of recruitment. I just was at George Washington High School. I'll be in Charleston next week, but we recruit nationally.

And one of the things we like about being a member of the Big 12 Conference is the fact that we can tell our story across the swath of those institutions in those states. So, we have every belief that our enrollment will continue to be stable or even start to grow again.

The full interview with President Gee can be heard on U92 The Moose 3-4 p.m. on Feb. 14 during the station's "Pledge your love to the Moose Marathon." Tune in to 91.7 FM or listen online at u92themoose.

SGA pushes for alcohol drink covers in clubs and bars

BY SAVANNAH JONES

CORRESPONDENT

The WVU Student Government Association is requesting local bars and clubs to offer drink covers for alcohol to increase safety downtown.

SGA's Sexual Assault Committee has reached out to multiple late-night establishments in recent weeks and will soon ask the city of Morgantown to mandate drink covers in bars and clubs downtown.

Committee members say they want to reduce the potential for sexual assault and that requiring drink covers is the easiest way to do so.

"These clubs are taking in thousands and thousands of dollars a night. Why couldn't you pay a little extra and take a little extra time to put a lid on these drinks?" former SGA Sen. Caleb Kuffner said. "It's an easy solution for a problem that puts a lot of women

in danger, and men too."

Kuffner came up with this prevention plan after having multiple friends come to him with reasons to believe their drinks were tampered with at clubs and bars downtown.

He said the committee plans to publish an Instagram poll to gauge whether students would be more inclined to attend bars that provide drinks with lids. This poll will serve as a follow-up to an earlier SGA survey where 128 students said they had reason to believe that their drinks had been tampered with at a bar or club downtown.

"I had a few friends that got roofied or believe they had gotten roofied," Kuffner said. "It was the committee that I was on, and [proposing that bars provide lids] just seemed like a no-brainer."

The idea, first proposed in October, will soon be taken to the city leaders in hopes



PHOTO BY TRENTON STRAIGHT

 $SGA\ senators\ discuss\ a\ proclamation\ opposing\ the\ Campus\ Self-Defense\ Act\ in\ a\ regular\ meeting\ on\ Jan.\ 18,2023.$

of finding a bar to serve as a "pilot" for the program. So far, there haven't been any establishments willing to participate.

"Unfortunately, a lot of things aren't seriously considered unless they're looked at from economic standards," Olivia Dowler, a founding member of SGA's sexual assault prevention committee, said. "We're trying to look at how these calculations are for bars and clubs, like how cheap it is, to show them that it's [lids] a very feasible option. If you can put out straws and napkins ... it's just as easy to order a bunch of plastic lids and put

them there too."

Operators of bars, including The Bank and Fat Daddy's Bar and Grill, told SGA they're open to conversation about the idea, according to Dowler. She said Happy's Pub declined the proposal. All three establishments declined to comment to The Daily Athenaeum

regarding the issue.

"It's just an option," Bailey Cahill, chair of SGA's Sexual Assault Prevention Committee, said. "If you want to put [a lid] on, you can. But if you don't, you don't have to. That way they [bars] don't feel like their timeline of how many people they can serve at a time gets slowed down."

SGA committee members hope that, with the help of the city, the verbal agreements that have been made with willing establishments will be made official.

"We're just at 'ask the city' right now, and then I think we want just to find one bar that's willing to do it, as opposed to trying to get a bunch on board," Cahill said.

"The approach that we're trying to take with our committee is doing more stuff to obviously prevent sexual assault."

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Bill

Continued from page 1

under the age of 18 in West Virginia, and no plan to begin offering those surgeries to my knowledge," Kidd said.

Orr said that there is little to no data on these procedures because they are not performed at all in the state.

But gender-affirming care includes more than just surgical procedures.

According to Kidd, gender-affirming care includes family support, assistance, navigating school and relationships and individual and family therapy.

She emphasized that no medical intervention is recommended or provided to pre-pubescent people in the state.

"Very commonly we hear that narrative," Kidd said. "But that is not something that is any of our standards of care and not something that we provide, and so only after puberty has begun are any of the medical interventions considered."

Gonadotropin-releasing hormone agonist, or puberty blockers, are the first medical intervention considered for adolescent patients with severe gender dysphoria and who've begun puberty, according to Kidd.

The fully reversible medication pauses the progression of puberty to allow adolescent patients and their families to have more time to assess other options.

Kidd said that puberty blockers are only initiated with parental consent in patients under 18.

"The puberty blockers require extensive discussion with patients and their parents before we will consider initiating them," Kidd said.

After puberty blockers, hormone therapy can be considered under specific conditions and with parental consent.

"Hormone therapy is only considered if a young person and adolescent's gender dysphoria is severe enough and that the benefits of medications, specifically the reduction of severe depression and suicidality, outweigh the risks of changes that are not fully reversible with those medications," Kidd said.

Orr and Kidd noted how most major American medical organizations — the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychia-



PHOTO COURTESTY WV LEGISLATIVE/PERRY BENNETT

WVU healthcare provides were among those gathered at the Capitol for a public hearing on HB 2007 on Feb. 2, 2023.

try, the American Medical Association and the American Medical Psychological Association — have statements and guidelines that give direction for providing gender-affirming care.

According to the Trevor Project's 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health, 14% of transgender and nonbinary youth in West Virginia attempted suicide in the past year. And 60% of transgender and nonbinary youth in the state said they seriously considered it.

Although hormone therapy

isn't completely reversible, Kidd said several studies show that the treatment, along with puberty blockers, has been associated with reductions in high rates of depression and suicidal ideations among trans patients.

Meanwhile, HB 2832, another bill that was proposed to clarify the duties of school counselors was recently "parked" after Foster proposed an amendment that would limit gender-affirming care by school counselors.

It is scheduled for a second reading on Feb. 7 in the House.

While many spoke in opposition of the bill during last week's public hearing, Orr said the fight is not over.

With the state House and Senate elections being two years away, Orr said it is important for those concerned about the bill to get involved.

"If people are wondering what they can do to help: call our delegates and senators, email them, tell them that these bills are harming people, provide them with facts," Orr said.

In addition to contacting your district's representatives, Orr said opponents of the bill can look out for public hearings and protests, emphasizing the importance of solidarity in fights like these.

"So truly, we need our allies to start contacting these folks and start showing up to these hearings. Again, even if they're not going to speak, be there in solidarity. Check in on your trans friends, your colleagues, or families with trans children or trans parents because we're struggling right now."

At WVU, the LGBTQ+ Center plans to continue providing support for current and future transgender students who may be affected by the proposed legislation.

"We'll do everything in our power and everything possible to make sure that the support networks are there and that we offer resources to the LGBTQ and trans students who will be impacted by these laws," Brad Grimes, program coordinator for the LGBTQ+ Center, said.

Grimes added that Morgantown community members can support the LGBTQ+ community by getting educated about gender-affirming care.

"People may think, 'This isn't my community, it's not my experience ... I don't know much about it, and why should I?' But I think that it's really important that people avail themselves opportunities to get educated about this," Grimes said. "My personal feelings are that just because you're not LGBTQ doesn't mean that your child, your brother, your sister, your family member, you're someone that you care about, someone that you love won't be."



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Morgantown human rights activist featured in Lizzo's YITTY campaign

BY SABRINA SIEGAN

ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

For the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, YITTY, Lizzo's shape wear brand, named after her childhood nickname, highlighted five reproductive rights activists to represent the brand.

According to YITTY's website, their mission is to be a size-inclusive brand that works off ideas of effortless self-love and confidence, making sure that each piece celebrates every body.

Morgantown's Ash Orr, a transgender and reproductive justice organizer, was one of the five chosen.

"I just use my skill sets and privilege to try to educate folks on what's going on in our legislative body, as well as help keep my community as safe and informed as possible," Orr said

They are an open and proud trans individual who was mobilized to get involved in response to attacks on Roe v. Wade and LGBTQ+ rights in the state.

"As an abortion patient and a queer trans person I needed to get involved," Orr said. "All of this has been a self learning journey. I've also had great mentors ... to guide me into living my truth and to finding my confidence and being willing to speak out for those who do not have the opportunity or the safety to do so."

One of YITTY's producers had been following Orr's activism, especially around abortion and reproductive rights. He reached out to Orr over email asking if they would work with the brand on its 'My body is nobody's business' campaign.

Orr said they were very excited to get involved with Lizzo's brand.

"I gotta tell you at first I was like, 'Is this real?" they said.

Orr said YITTY made their experience safe and welcoming, giving each activist the space to speak openly about their individual lived experiences.

"I felt so comfortable sharing being an abortion patient and being a trans individual in West Virginia," Orr said. "To be able to be a part of this project on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade really meant a lot to me as a trans person and as well as someone who has had an abortion."

They got to share their

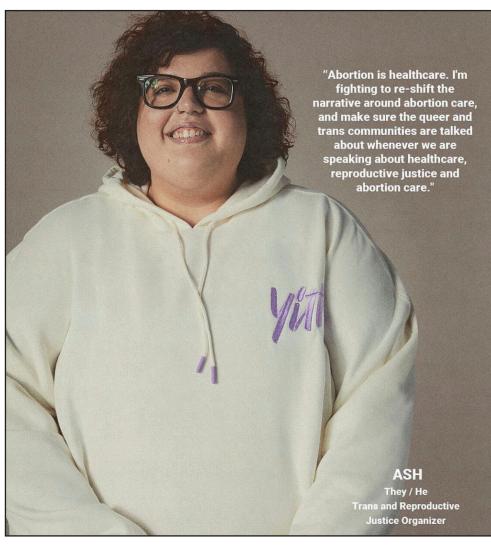


PHOTO COURTESY YITTY

Ash Orr was one of five activists selected nationwide for YITTY's campaign.

unique intersection with reproductive justice and the LGBTQ+ community, something Orr believes to often be overlooked.

"I think a lot of folks whenever they think about abortion care and reproductive justice, they only see it as cis women's and a cis woman's problem," Orr said. "The reality is that trans individuals have abortions, queer individuals have abortions, and I work very hard in the organized activism that I do to help break down and reconstruct those narratives."

More than just advocating for the larger community of individuals who have abortions, Orr and YITTY hope to show people that personal presentation is valid and unwrite stereotypes within the media.

"I do wish to validate folks. If you're non binary, you don't have to look a certain way. If you're a trans male or trans female, you do not have to look a certain way. Present yourself how you are comfortable, because you're valid. You are valid no matter what."

The outpouring of support and positive responses Orr received after their pictures and interview were published, made them grateful to have their voice uplifted by such a large brand.

"I'm just an individual from West Virginia, and I'm just trying to do my best to keep my community safe," Orr said.

Orr added that positive responses they received from those needing representation on social media were especially rewarding.

"It's wild, I'm so thankful that these individuals feel safe coming to me. One individual actually messaged me saying, 'Seeing you on here gave me the confidence to come out to my family," Orr said. "I told the folks after filming there, 'If this project helps just one person feel less alone in my state, I've done my job."

Ash is active on their Twitter @ash_in_wv and their Instagram @ash.in.wv.

They also have a SubStack, Ash in West Virginia, informing subscribers about current local politics.

Three things to do in Morgantown this weekend

BY DREW JONES

CORRESPONDENT

As Valentine's Day approaches there are a variety of events in Morgantown to attend with your valentine. This weekend the Daily Athenaeum recommends a Valentine's Day dinner, a pop-up shopping opportunity and a festival of romantic gifts.

2023 WV Chocolate Wine and Shine Festival

This event is for those who forgot to get their significant other a Valentine's Day gift. The Chocolate Wine and Shine festival will showcase chocolatiers, confectionaries, wineries, and other various artisan vendors.

The event will take place Saturday at the Hales & J.W. Ruby Community Center, lasting from 12:45 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. for the afternoon session, and 6-9 p.m. for the evening session.

The event has two types of tickets, with a general ad-

mission ticket available at \$40, and a VIP ticket at \$75. For more information, visit chocolatewineshine.com.

Hoot & Howl Galentine's Pop-Up

This event on Sunday is perfect for those who just want to hang out at midday. This event features multiple local businesses, including Loose Threads, Appalachian Botanical Co. and Euphorbia. There is no entry fee and is located at Hoot and Howl on Walnut Street. For more information, visit @shophootandhowl on Instagram.

Valentines Woodburning Workshop The Morgantown Art Bar is

town Art Bar is hosting a Woodburning Workshop for a romantic Valentine's Daythemed date. This event will take place at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Art Bar in Morgantown. For more information, visit their Facebook page.



PHOTO COURTESY ASH ORR

Ash Orr standing by a pride mural crosswalk.

LOVE EDITION

West Virginia ranked the most 'romantic' state

BY LARA BONATESTA

CULTURE EDITOR

West Virginia was ranked the "most romantic state" for the last six years, according to a chart published by Bookies. com.

"Despite having one of the smallest populations of any state in the U.S., the Mountaineers love themselves some Valentine's Day. The state flower is the rhododendron, so we're guessing those are flying off shelves during the second week of February. Color us shocked, impressed, and everything in between here," Mark Strotman, veteran sports betting journalist, wrote on Bookies.com.

Bookies.com awarded the state this title using Google Trends data from 2017 through 2022 for the search team "Valentine's Day." The website examined data only from the 30 days leading up to the holiday each year.

A Google Trends search for the search term "Valentine's Day," using all search data since 2004, also shows West Virginia as the state with the most searches followed by California, Pennsylvania, New York and Kansas.

To determine interest by subregion, Google Trends calculates and assigns values on a scale of zero to 100. The region with the most popularity for a specific search team is assigned a value of 100.

A value of 50 means that there is half the amount of searches and a value of zero indicates there was not enough data for this region.

West Virginia received a score of 100 every year from 2017 to 2022.



PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The New River Gorge Bridge is located in Fayette County, West Virginia.

'Home away from home': LGBTQ+ Center supports students

BY DA STAFF

Brad Grimes, program coordinator of the LGBTQ+ Center, sat down with The Daily Athenaeum last week to discuss services and resources offered by the department, as well as current issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community on campus.

The following interview has been edited for clarity and length.

DA: Could you tell me a little bit more about the LGBTQ+ Center and what resources it offers to students?

Grimes: We are an academic and advocacy unit, and we really do exactly that. We host a number of programs, events, activities, that advocate for LGBTQ and allied students.

We also do educational trainings: our safe zone and transgender safe zone, health-care safe zone, education safe zone that we offer to units on and off campus and by request to other professionals throughout the state. We do have a big educational component to what we do.

But we really seek to be the home away from home for LGBTQ and allied students. It's a safe place to come hang out, meet other people to engage with our trusted staff of three. We're very knowledgeable and always happy and welcoming people to talk with us and help find resources for them.

We have a very robust website, lgbtq.wvu.edu, that is really a treasure trove of campus, local, state and national

resources. So we encourage everyone to avail themselves of that, check that out.

We have a lending library of LGBTQ books and resources. We're always happy to help people. If someone wants to come talk to our staff, we're happy to work with them to find the resources that they need to succeed and thrive here at WVU.

DA: Are there any resources that are specific to staff or faculty or the wider community?

Grimes: We have a Faculty and Staff Connections, whereby we try to get together once or twice a semester to build networks, foster engagement and really just show support for our LGBTQ+ and allied faculty and staff.

DA: What do you think are the biggest misconceptions regarding the LGBTQ+ community that you see across the state?

Grimes: Personally, I think that the biggest misconception that people have about the LGBTQ+ community is that we are one monolithic group of people. And it really couldn't be farther from the truth. I mean, there is such incredible diversity in the LGBTQ+ community.

Think about the acronym Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer questioning, and then the plus, which is a catch-all to incorporate every other sexual and gender identity that's not in that five-letter acronym. Right? So there is an incredible range of diversity going on within the LGBTQ+community ...

Not everyone shares the same political views ... You also have to take into account intersectional concerns. There are racial, ethnic, socio-economic factors that play into everyone's experiences. So the lived experiences of Black, indigenous and people of color, who are LGBTQ, are going to be very different than the experiences for white LGBTQ people.

DA: What issues or struggles do you find are common among students that are part of this community?

Grimes: One thing that I see is that students coming into the University, like first-year students, frequently experience anxiety about coming out ... For National Coming Out Day we have a program that helps students talk about and process and kind of prepare for coming out.

We recognize that coming out can be scary ... If it's met with support and affirmation, or if it's not, it can really take a toll on people.

So we always encourage young people to have a safety plan before they come out, making sure that they have a safe place to stay should their parents react badly and kick them out of the house, making sure that they have a little kind of savings nest egg to support them if they are forced to suddenly live on their own.

We work with other units on campus, the Career Center, and we engage and collaborate with units across campus to help our LGBTQ students deal with things that they need to deal with.



PHOTO COURTESY WVU

Brad Grimes is the program coordinator for WVU's LGBTQ+ Center.

DA: What ways do you think our state could better support or be more inclusive towards this community?

Grimes: A lot of people may not realize this. But unlike WVU — which has a non-discrimination policy that's inclusive of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression — the state of West Virginia does not actually have those protections for those groups in the state's nondiscrimination policy.

So one thing that the state could do is pass a comprehensive nondiscrimination policy that does, in fact, include and protect sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

One great thing that the state is doing, at least it has here up 'till now, is allow municipalities to pass ordinances of their own, that do have these enhanced protections for sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Currently, there are 16 municipalities in the state that have these municipal ordinances.

DA: It's almost Valentine's Day, which is a huge marketing holiday. And a lot of the time, the LGBTQ+ community is often left out of those marketing efforts. How do you think companies could be more inclusive toward this community?

Grimes: I think for a long time, LGBTQ folks were excluded and marginalized from that marketing. But I'm really encouraged today. I'm kind of encouraged and I'm kind of chagrin because on the one hand, like I see so much more LGBTQ+ inclusion in media ...

I know that networks are doing a better job of like having LGBTQ+ characters. I see commercials featuring samesex couples and just greater diversity than I think ever before. So that's encouraging.

But I'm also mindful that the bottom line is money ... It's just prudent, I think, for them to try to capture as many lavender dollars, if you will, like to capture that gay segment that LGBTQ segment and to make money off of them.

So I want to think that it's rooted in inclusivity and diversity and just an effort to be more equal and to market to people evenly. My concern is that it's really just a marketing ploy and that it's just a chance to capture another demographic.

The full interview with Grimes can be heard on U92 The Moose 6-7 p.m. on Feb. 14 during the station's "Pledge your love to the Moose Marathon." Tune in to 91.7 FM or listen online at u92themoose. com. Half of the donations received up to \$500 during the hour will benefit the LGBTQ+

LOVE EDITION ♥ FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Valentine's Day cutouts from the DA



UNLIKE WVU PARKING,
THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR
YOU IN MY HEART <3

to: from:





to: from:

I'LL KEEP YOU UPALLNIGHT :)









8 WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2023

- Love Edition Horoscopes

BY SABRINA SIEGAN

CULTURE EDITOR

February is a month filled with romance! With Valentine's Day right around the corner, here are the horoscopes for each zodiac sign, regardless of your relationship status!

This Valentine's Day each sign will feel optimism and self confidence with a moon in Sagittarius. The night could end up very sensual and steamy with Mars in Capricorn. Just beware of any potential power struggles between these two and maybe opt for a more lowkey Valentine's Day activity.

Aquarius (January 20 -February 18)

This Valentine's Day you'll

need to reconnect with your loved ones through shared interests. Take on a new hobby with any special people in your life. For those single Aquarius folks out there, you never know who you might meet if you go out alone!

Pisces (February 19 -March 20)

Hey folks, it's your season! Be sure to check in to the party even when you want to check out. Doing this may make you feel better to create a sweet night for yourself, your friends and/or lover. Regardless, this Valentine's Day you will really feel the love!

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

It's important to create a special night for those you love. Get your head out of the clouds to ground yourself in nature. This will allow you to enjoy the whimsical and tender nature of this coming Valentine's Day.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

You are grounded in your desire to be indulgent and sensual this Valentine's Day. Surround yourself in good company, whether that's friends, romantic partners or even yourself. If you add the right amount of passion to your plans, pleasure is sure to be delivered!

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

We get it, you just might not feel the hype this year. Though, you should celebrate. Maybe just not in your usual way. Settle for a wine night with some friends, play games, find selfcare through face masks and find joy this Valentine's night.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

We know you want your traditional day with fancy dinner and roses, but with a twist. A night of dancing and letting your hair down is calling your name. You know you're not a wallflower! If you happen to be in a relationship this may deepen your connection.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

You're someone who's either go big or go home! So, you may see Valentine's Day as a time of big declarations. Choose the most romantic spot in Morgantown and go all out with whatever Valentine is in your life this year!

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

This could be the beginning or renewal of an amazing connection. Take any plans you have this day as a fated moment, it may just be that intense. Your Valentine's Day could be as enchanting as you imagine!

Libra (September 23 - Ocober 22)

We know you've been work-

LOVE SUCK VOXO

IMAGE VIA PEXELS/ JILL WELLINGTON

What do the stars have in store for you this Valentine's Day?

ing on something sweet for you loved ones, Libra! It may have been a while since you've planned to do something like this, but don't shy away this Valentine's Day. This moment will melt your loved one's heart, everyone loves to be a muse. Be sure to take lots of pictures!

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Valentine's Day is you time to embrace your truest desires, feel free to experiment. Be sure to do something enticing with your preferred crowd, that will give you lots to talk about afterwards.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Your love life may be in drastic need of spicing up this Valentine's Day. Don't be too tempted to spend the night inside. Try to hit the town or try that place you've been eyeing. This will help you indulge in love this holiday.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Hey Capricorn, don't let any work drama stand in the way of your Valentine's Day. Stress should not stand in your way of quality time with loved ones. We also suggest opting for more physical manifestations of love. For you this is an easier outlet for love.

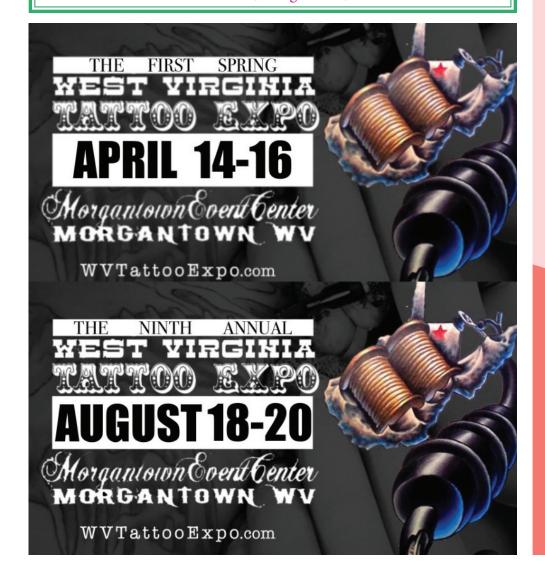
Horoscopes courtesy of Allure and POPSUGAR.



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LOVE EDITION ♥ FEBRUARY 8, 2023

WELLWVU offers safer sex resources

BY LARA BONATESTA

CULTURE EDITOR

WELLWVU offers a variety of safer sex resources and programs to help students take care of their sexual health.

"They're so important," WELLWVU Director Courtney Weaver said about the services. "We're sexual beings until we die, and so we don't talk about it enough as young people."

She said the goal of these programs is to inform students of the resources available and help them make the best decisions for themselves.

"We just want students to make the right choice for them, and I think that we try really hard to let that shine through in any kind of education that we provide," Weaver said.

Sex Jeopardy and Presentations

WELLWVU provides both online and in-person educational programs for students.

"One thing that a lot of students aren't coming to college with is a background in sex education just because it's not always fully supported in schools," Weaver said.

One of these efforts is Sex Jeopardy, a multi-player activity with questions about STIs and testing, contraception, communication, etc. Condoms, dental dams and lubricant are also offered to students as part of the program.

By completing a program request faculty members, resident assistants and student organizations can request both Sex Jeopardy and other educational presentations on STIs and safer sex methods that are specific to their needs.

"I think, especially now within the past year with the changes have happened nationwide and in our state, I think the students ... really want this information because they want to protect themselves and their potential partners," Weaver said.

Online, WELLWVU provides information about consent, STIs, testing, risk, correct condom use, hormonal and emergency contraception and more.

"Because this is a sensitive topic, students might not want to talk to someone face to face about it," Weaver said explaining the importance of online resources.

She added that WELLWVU also provides information about abstinence.

"We talk about every way to stay safe," she said. "So we have a section of our website that talks about abstinence



PHOTO COURTESY COURTNEY WEAVER

WELLWVU offers a variety of sexual health resources including internal and external condoms, dental dams and lubricant.

and we say, 'Hey, if you're going to be abstinent, that's cool. But if you're not going to be abstinent, that's cool, too. And here's how you're going to protect yourself and your partners

in the future."

Condom Caravan

Through the Condom Caravan, students can go online to request free internal condoms, external condoms, den-

tal dams and lubricant from the WELLWVU office, located in room 118 on the first floor of the Student Health Building.

Students can request the materials they need by filling

out WELLWVU's online survey and selecting the date and materials they need.

Condom Caravan pickups occur every Thursday and Friday between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Supplies are packaged discreetly.

"We package it up so that you don't have to talk to anyone when you come and pick it up. You just grab your bag, and you go," Weaver said.

Pickup will not be available on March 16, March 17 and April 7 while the University is closed due to Spring break and Spring holiday. The last pickup dates for the

The last pickup dates for the Spring 2023 semester will be May 11 and May 12.

Other resources

In addition to educating students about safer sex practices and providing resources, WELLWVU also points students to various other on-campus, local or online sexual health resources.

Among these is a list of places to get STI tested in Morgantown, including WVU Student Health, Monongalia County Health Department and WVU Positive Health Clinic.

For more information about WELLWVU and its services, visit well.wvu.edu or go to @ wellwvu on Instagram.

Meet the 2023 DA Date Show contestant: Rylea Setler

BY LAUREN TAYLOR

CORRESPONDENT

The third annual DA Date show is right around the corner, and the 2023 candidate, Rylea Setler, is excited to put herself out there.

Setler is a sophomore animal and nutritional sciences major from Grafton, West Virginia.

She said she applied to be the 2023 candidate because she wanted to step outside her comfort zone and meet new people.

"I decided to apply because my friend told me about it, and I was like 'Oh, this should be a good opportunity,' not just to go on a date but maybe to find a new friend," she said. "College is kind of stressful and most times I like to at least have fun and let loose a little."

Setler's dream is to be a veterinarian, and she said her love for animals has grown since she was a kid.

"I love just taking my friend's dogs for the day because I can spoil them like my own," she said. "I've grown up with animals. I literally have 10 cats back home. I just love animals so much." In addition to her love for furry friends, she enjoys reading, coffee, country music and curling up to watch a movie or TV show.

She also describes herself as low maintenance and likes to spend her free time relaxing.

"I'm very simple. I love movies. I love binge-watching things. Like I will sit on the couch with like a coffee and watch TV all day," she said.

In terms of a partner, Setler is looking for someone who shares similar interests.

"I'm kind of looking for someone that's outgoing but also to themselves a little bit. I like someone that's grounded — someone who is happy and honest; honesty is a big thing."

Additionally, Setler hopes the date show will give her a face-to-face experience, as opposed to the world of dating apps and social media DMs.

"I kind of think that people have gotten really into more of their phones. Like 'Oh, I'm gonna direct message this person or I'm gonna Snapchat this person.' And I'm just like, 'What if you talk to them in person?"" she said. "I think talking in person is way better because you get to actually vibe with the person and not



PHOTO COURTESY RYLEA SETLER Rylea Setler, the 2023 DA Date show contestant, poses in front of stones.

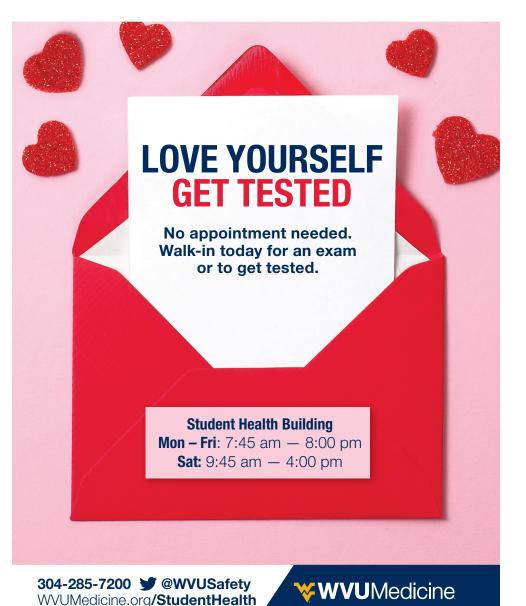
just send emojis."

She said that when she does find her match, she hopes to form a friendship before a relationship.

"I like to get to know someone. I want to be friends with this person. I think becoming like a best friend first is more important than the actual dating part," she said.

The DA Date Show will be held on Friday, Feb. 17, at WVUp All Night in the Mountainlair.

Setler and her lucky chosen date will enjoy a complimentary dinner hosted by Va-



OPINION

Tragedy, not self defense: A more likely outcome of campus carry

OP-ED SUBMITTED BY MARÍA PÉREZ

For six years now, I have been invited by a colleague at West Virginia University to give a lecture on gun violence in his "Traditions of Hunting" class. This has become a hallmark lecture with about 200 students attending each year.

Over the years, the students of this course have taught me about the injustices and pain wrought by uninformed and simplistic stereotypes and the harm of vilifying anyone who expresses any interest and/or enthusiasm for firearms.

I have gained a better appreciation for how firearms allow hunters to provide food for their families, and how many care about and contribute to environmental conservation. I also have come to respect the skill that comes from handling a rifle — in fact, WVU is home to marksmanship world champions and a mascot who proudly carries a black powder rifle.

My understanding of the gun culture in West Virginia is why I believe that after every single lecture, I have students come up to me to tell me that they were surprised about my approach toward the subject of firearms. They shared how they appreciate the respectful, informed and more nuanced stance on such a polarizing topic.

This is not to say we do not have some challenging moments throughout the lecture, but we are able to be thoughtful and grapple with the role of firearms in our society with common sense and reason - unfortunately, this is not what our lawmakers are doing by proposing legislation that forces colleges to allow guns on campus.

I am repeatedly brought to tears and shock when I learn of WVU students dealing with domestic abuse at home, the death of a parent due to an opioid overdose, suicide, or alcoholism and poverty. Many students themselves are dealing with poverty and even

It is my proximity to my students' reality that has me deeply concerned that the West Virginia Legislature has introduced a bill that would force colleges to allow individuals to carry guns on public university campuses — places such as dorms, libraries, class-



PHOTO COURTESY MARÍA PÉREZ

María Pérez, associate geography professor at WVU's Department of Geology and

rooms and dining halls.

According to research that has taken a public health approach to gun violence in the U.S., policies that promote the idea that having access to a firearm will increase safety are likely to have the opposite effect: they are likely to lead to more homicides, suicides and mass shootings.

A 2014 study published by the American College of Physicians suggests that the simple presence of a firearm in the

home significantly increases the likelihood of suicide and homicide. Specifically, it shows access to a firearm increases threefold the likelihood of a fatal suicide attempt.

For U.S. veterans, many of whom are our students, the number is even worse.

About seven out of every 10 veteran deaths by suicide are the result of firearm injuries. according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This is, in fact, the main reason why

the department is funding its REACH initiative — the Firearm Suicide Prevention and Lethal Means Safety program.

According to the National Suicide Resource Prevention Center, suicide is the second leading cause of death among college-age youth in the country.

In West Virginia, suicide rates are above the national average and climbing, according to the CDC. About half of the suicides nationwide involve a firearm. Of those suicides, only about half are carried out by people with a mental illness antecedent.

What's more, research featured in a 2016 editorial of The American Journal of Psychiatry, makes the following points: of people who survive a suicide attempt, many end up dying of other causes.

Those whose initial attempt involved a firearm are usually successful. In an ironic and tragic twist, a possession that to so many is the ultimate embodiment of freedom ends up robbing them of the freedom to choose a second chance at

I am disappointed that our lawmakers are perverting what is generally a commonsense gun culture by ignoring the evidence and appealing to a small minority who is either unaware or disregards many of the particular challenges of our students, staff and faculty on university campuses.

Research also shows risk factors on campuses such as drug and alcohol abuse make the presence of firearms especially dangerous. Alcohol use is associated with increased aggression, impaired judgment about whether to shoot a firearm and worsened aim

As a professor at WVU, I urge leaders at all levels, including our lawmakers and faculty and staff, to not turn a blind eye to the everyday implications of forcing colleges to allow guns on campus.

While in some cases carrying a firearm may either deter violence or be a useful tool for self-defense, we know that the much more likely outcome is a preventable tragedy.

If you or someone you know could be at risk for suicide, call or text 988 to connect with the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

Reach a live, trained crisis counselor at the Carruth Center by texting WVU to 741741.

FOOD REVIEW | Von Blaze brings a modern twist to bar crawl favorites

BY MADELINE HARRIS

FOOD CRITIC

Sometimes students just need a warm meal from a family-owned restaurant. Luckily, I have found the perfect place in downtown Morgantown.

Welcome to Von Blaze, located right in the heart of downtown at 1 Wall St., which is perpendicular to High Street. This stylish sandwich shop, which opened in 2021, offers lunch and dinner during various hours Wednesday through Sunday.

Von Blaze is known locally for its homemade sandwiches, local craft beers and self-proclaimed "sophisticated drunk food." They pride themselves in their modern touch to classic menu items.

I made my trip to Von Blaze $last\,Wednesday\,around\,6\,p.m.$

I was surprised to see that there are only eight tables in the restaurant and a bar area. Luckily, the restaurant was not too busy, so I did not have to wait for a table.

With so many great options on the menu, choosing a meal was quite a dilemma. After much deliberation, I decided to go with the Von Blaze burger, given their reputation with sandwiches.

The Von Blaze burger comes with a smashed Angus patty, braised short rib, Cooper's sharp white American, crispy onions, horseradish aioli and bordelaise sauce on a brioche bun.

While I waited for my food, I took in the lovely architecture of the restaurant, which has a trendy theme of wood with red

The building was renovated just before the restaurant moved in. I enjoyed the plants, which made the environment feel much more like

I only had to wait for about 10 to 15 minutes for my burger, which was another green flag of the restaurant. This burger was absolutely massive, and I would highly recommend cutting it in half before digging in.

I have never had a burger before with both ribs and patty meat, but I am glad to say now that I have because it was delicious. Both portions of meat were oozing with the juiciest flavors, and the onions added just the right amount of crunch to the sandwich. The bordelaise sauce was a perfect addition to the braised short rib.

This burger fed me happily for two meals, and for 13 dollars, I was more than satisfied with that value. I am looking forward to bringing all of my friends down to Von Blaze to help me tackle the rest of the menu, because if these items are as good as the Von Blaze burger, everyone needs to give Von Blaze a try.

If you go:

Location:

1 Wall St, Morgantown, WV 26505

Hours:

- Closed
- Monday-Tuesday
- Wednesday: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 5-9
- p.m. Friday-Saturday: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., 5-10
- Sunday: 10 a.m.-2



PHOTO BY MADELINE HARRIS

The Von Blaze burger.



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.





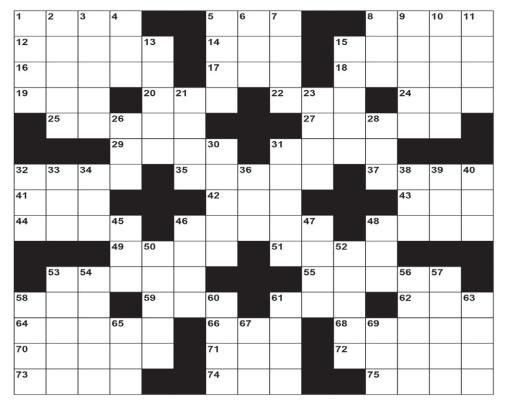
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Across

- 1 Become closed
- 5 Buddy
- 8 Lodge
- 12 Fake chocolate
- 14 Vane direction 15 View
- 16 Enrage
- 17 Expression of surprise 18 Florida City
- 19 Caviar
- 20 Abridged (abbr.)
- 22 Cone bearing evergreen or the hair on a animal
- 24 Deer relative
- 25 Release
- 27 Long, skinny boat
- 29 Negative (prefix)
- 31 N.A. Indian 32 Grating sound
- 35 Fast growing tree whose leaves flutter in the slightest breeze
- 37 Mr. Donahue
- 41 Stretch to make do
- 42 Downwind
- 43 Fall mo.
- 44 Palm tree of the Middle East which bears an edible fruit
- 46 The syrup tree
- 48 Leered 49 Formal dance
- 51 Scalp
- 53 City in Nebraska

- 55 Lights 58 Whiz

- 59 And so forth
- 61 Clock time
- 62 Able
- 64 Lowest
- 66 Kimono sash
- 68 Tree with aromatic durable wood
- 70 Impressionist painter
- 71 Not (refix)
- 72 Drove
- 73 Parlay
- 74 Ingest 75 Look for

Down

- 1 Pit
- 2 National capital
- 3 Recommends 4 Foot extension
- 5 Bears rounded, white fleshed edible fruit that narrows at the stem
- 6 'Has an opposite branching pattern and small;; dots on it's leaves
- 7 Sheet
- 8 Farm credit administration (abbr.)
- 9 Juliet's boyfriend
- 10 Fruit of this tree makes a nice tasting cider
- 11 Tall evergreen of Asia . It's wood is used for furniture and ship building
- 13 Strength
- 21 Second letter of the greek alphabet

- 23 Computer picture button
- 26 Resin that exudes from
- certain trees
- 28 Pinch
- 30 Major world religion
- 31 Palm parts 32 Crimson
- 33 Precedes an alias
- 36 High-school club
- 38 Heavy freight barge
- 39 Frost
- 40 Limited (abbr.)
- 45 Environmental protection agency (abbr)
- 46 Fosse
- 47 Snaky fish
- 48 Shade tree with arching, spreading branches and serrated leaves
- 50 Gone With the Wind's Mr. Butler
- 52 Fasten
- 53 Large water body
- 54 Intended
- 56 Priest
- 57 Shovel
- __ matter
- 60 Fruit of the pine family 61 Chocolate and peppermint
- 63 Journey
- 65 Visit
- 67 Scarf
- 69 Aurora

For answers, visit thedaonline.com



Pet of the Week



PHOTO BY TAYLOR IONES

Meet Ruger! Ruger loves to play with other dogs and eat everyone's food. He does all the basics, but his favorite trick is two-paws when he stands on his back legs and poses. His favorite treat is frozen blueberries.

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

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. Sudoku puzzle brought to you by Jim Bumgardner at krazydad.com

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	4	3		6	7	9	5	1
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Men's hoops set to host Iowa State

BY LUKE BLAIN

CO-SPORTS EDITOR

The WVU men's basketball team is set to welcome the No. 11 Iowa State Cyclones to the Coliseum on Wednesday. It will be the first contest between the two teams this season.

The Mountaineers (14-9, 3-7 Big 12) come into the game looking for their second straight win after a dominant 32-point win over Oklahoma on Saturday. Iowa State (16-6, 7-3 Big 12) is second in the conference and coming off of a win over then-No. 8 Kansas.

WVU averages more points per-game with 77.6 compared to Iowa State's 70.7. The Cyclones, however, allow only 61 points per-game, the fewest in the Big 12.

"They're a really good transition defensive team," Huggins said of Iowa State. "They've got shot blockers."

Iowa State's offense is led by the tag team of senior guards Jaren Holmes and Gabe Kalscheur. Holmes leads the peak in points per game with 13.6, but Kalscheur is not far behind with 13.2.

Defense is an import-



PHOTO BY HUNTER LANGLEY

Erik Stevenson celebrates against Oklahoma at the Coliseum on Feb. 4, 2023.

ant aspect of the Cyclones' game, as they lead the Big 12 in steals per game with 9.36. The team's leader in steals per

game, Tamin Lipsey, is also ranked third in the Big 12 in the category.

Even though he has been

either hot or cold in recent games, fifth-year senior guard Erik Stevenson still leads the Mountaineers in points pergame with 14.9. He comes into the contest against Iowa State having just scored his career-high 34 points against the

Sooners

Huggins weighed in on Stevenson's contribution to the win.

"Erik was terrific," Huggins said. "I thought he did a great job of leading and helping our other guys."

Another Mountaineer that has been improving is sophomore forward James Okonkwo. Okonkwo had his career high in points and rebounds with 10 apiece against Oklahoma, the first double-double of his career.

"I think James [Okonkwo] has made tremendous strides," Huggins said. "I mean, I think he's a guy who could end up being a force in college basketball."

The Oklahoma win was certainly exciting for WVU fans. Now, Huggins thinks it could be a turning point for the team.

"I think we finally have realized what we need to do to win in this league," Huggins said. "Our practices were better, guys were a lot more focused. I think they understand we got some work to do."

The game will be broadcasted on ESPN2 on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Gee weighs in on 2023 football schedule

BY LUKE BLAIN

CO-SPORTS EDITOR

The Big 12 football schedules were released last week, and West Virginia is set to take on both new and familiar foes. Since then, WVU President E. Gordon Gee has expressed his excitement about the upcoming season.

"It's going to be a robust season," Gee said in an interview with The Daily Athenaeum. "We're gonna have a lot of fun."

The schedule features Big 12 newcomers UCF, BYU, Houston and Cincinnati. The Mountaineers will play every Big 12 team except for Iowa State, Texas, Kansas and Kansas State.

"I can't wait," Gee said.
"Well, you know, I like college
athletics because of the [Spirit
Program] branch to the University. I know that we'll have
a very spirited season."

The Houston game will feature WVU facing off against its

former head coach, Dana Holgerson, for the first time since his departure in 2018. The game will be played on Thursday, Oct. 12.

The Backyard Brawl will also be back in Morgantown for the first time since 2011. Gee said he looks forward to the matchup and mentioned how he enjoys rivalries.

"Having rivalries and having them renewed is important," Gee said.

WVU's other non-conference matchups will be against Penn State and Duquesne. Both games will be away.

The Mountaineers will open conference play with a home game against Texas Tech followed by a trip to TCU.

After the team's bye week, WVU will alternate between home and away games for the remainder of the season. The first game after the rest week will be the trip to Houston to play the Cougars.

The Mountaineers will then host the Oklahoma State Cowboys. Next, the team will travel to play UCF in hopes of stay-

ing undefeated against the knights, as WVU leads the series 2-0.

Another new Big 12 team will come to Morgantown next as WVU will host BYU. It will be just the second time the two teams have played each other all-time.

A trip to Norman awaits the Mountaineers after that, as the Sooners will host WVU.

The next contest will be the team's final home game of the 2023 season with a visit from the Cincinnati Bearcats. It will be the first matchup between the two teams since 2011.

The final contest for the Mountaineers will be an away game against Baylor.

The Mountaineers finished last season 5-7 with a 3-6 conference record. Their Big 12 wins came against Oklahoma, Baylor and Oklahoma State.

"My thought is it's going to be very competitive, but we're bringing in our new teams. And it's going to be good for our fans," Gee said.



PHOTO BY JENNIFER SHEPHARD / WVU PHOTO

WVU President E. Gordon Gee watches the start of the Sunday Night Lights program at the stadium on Sunday, Aug. 15, 2021.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2023 SPORTS | 13

Men's soccer brings in eight new players

BY JAKE HOWARD

STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia Mountaineers men's soccer team has made eight additions to its program official this month, signing six high school recruits and landing two transfers.

Sam Clark, Defender

Sam Clark, a defender from Charleston, West Virginia, played for George Washington High School where he earned Mountain State Athletic Conference Player of the Year honors in 2022.

Andrew O'Neil, Midfielder

Andrew O'Neill, a midfielder from Fairport, New York, played for McQuade Jesuit. The 6'2 O'Neill also plays club soccer for the New York Rush.

Luke Lenz, Forward

Luke Lenz is a forward who hails from Wheeling, West Virginia and plays club soccer for the Pittsburgh Riverhounds. Lenz also scored 10 goals and had seven assists in 15 games for Kiski school this fall.

Jake Ross, Forward

Jake Ross, a forward from Wilmington, Delaware, plays for the Penn Fusion of the ECNL. He won the 2021 Delaware Gatorade Player of the Year, scoring 22 goals and six



WVU's lke Swiger (13) dribbles past a defender against Georgia State on Oct. 23, 2022,

PHOTO BY BY MEG BARTOLICK

at Dick Dlesk Soccer Stadium in Morgantown, West Virginia.
assists in 18 games as he led fers with a

Salesianum High School to the Division I state championship. Ryan Vaubel, Left Back

Left-back Ryan Vaubel is from Middletown, New Jersey, and is a captain of the U17 side of the Player's Development Academy.

Sam Yenka, Forward

Sam Yenka, a forward from Lower Merion, Pennsylvania, played for Lower Merion High School and was named an All-American by the United Soccer Coaches Association.

The six high school seniors are joined by two senior trans-

fers with abundant college soccer experience.

Max Broughton, Center Back Max Broughton is a senior

Max Broughton is a senior center back from Rawtenstall, England. He played three seasons for the SIU Edwardsville Cougars and was named All-West Region by the USCA after captaining SIUE this past season.

Thomas Decottignies, Right Back

Decottignies, a fifth-year right back from Lille, France, played four seasons for the University of Connecticut Huskies. Connecticut recruited him from France after he played for the LOSC Lille B team and for IC de Croix.

The recruits will have big shoes to fill, as WVU has lost nine players after the fall

One key player lost is Joseph Biafora, a senior striker from Morgantown, provided attacking depth off the bench for West Virginia. He also scored the first Morgantown-Morgantown goal in program history, as the University High School alum scored off an assist from Morgantown High School grad Elijah Borneo.

The senior right wingback played in thirty three games for WVU since transferring from Kenntucky.

Adam Burchell's four seasons with Dan Stratford came to an end, as the English forward played 36 matches in two seasons after transferring to Morgantown from Charleston University where he played two seasons with Stratford, winning the 2019 Division II National Championship.

Fifth-year centre back Aaron Denk-Gracia departed Morgantown having made 46 starts in three seasons. The Mannheim, Germany native played a key role in the Mountaineer defense.

Fifth-year senior Ike Swiger

leaves having played in 38 matches for the Mountaineers. The Fairmont, West Virginia, native played an array of positions such as right wingback, central midfield, right winger

and striker

The Mountaineers went 7-7-4 (3-1-4 Sun Belt) in 2022 and missed making the NCAA Tournament.

Women's Basketball

Sat., Feb 11, 6 p.m.

WVU vs. Iowa State

Play-by-play: Tannor Lambert

and Tanner Mountz

Pregame starts at 12:30 They

women's basketball leading

up to the game and will be

back for halftime and post-

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U92 SPORTS COVERAGE

Sportsnight

Wed., Feb. 8, 6-9 p.m. WVU Sports Hour

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

Beat The Clock

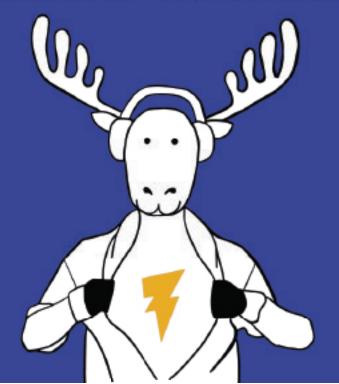
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14 | SPORTS WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Track and field sets school record

BY TRENT LEWIS

STAFF WRITER

The West Virginia University track and field team participated in both the Boston University Scarlet and White Invite and the Sykes & Sabock Invitational over the weekend.

The BU Scarlet and White Invite Elite Distance Medley Relay took place on Friday evening, while the Sykes & Sabock Invitational began on Saturday morning at the Penn State University Multisport Facility in State College, Pennsylvania.

On Friday, the Mountaineers set a new school record in the distance medley relay. Senior Mikaela Lucki, senior Tessa Constantine, junior Ceili McCabe and sophomore Cassandra Williamson finished the event with a 10:59.09 time, earning second place overall and the first finish under 11:00.00 for WVU in the event.

The Mountaineers started action on Saturday in the women's 1000m event, as sophomore Megan Weaver completed the race in 3:06.09 to finish in second place. Freshman Grace Wu and sophomore Tazanna Epps were close behind, placing third and fourth respectively. Wu crossed the finish line at 3:14.45, while Epps finished at

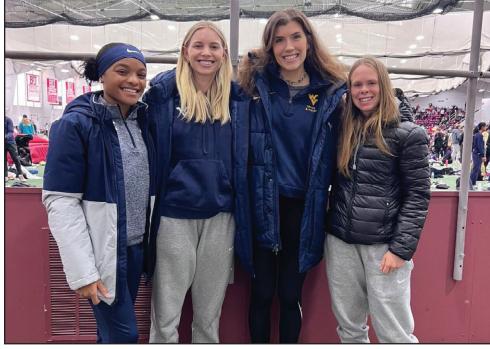


PHOTO COURTESY WVU ATHLETICS

(L-R) sophomore Cassandra Williamson, senior Tessa Constantine, redshirt senior Mikaela Lucki and sophomore Ceili McCabe.

3:19.51.

In the women's mile event, freshman Emily Bryce claimed 12th place as she ran in 5:08.75. Freshman Alex Fleck finished in 5:24.14 for 20th place, followed by sophomore Zara Zervos in 5:31.79 for 21st. Freshman Aubrie Custer rounded out the race for the Mountaineers in 23rd place,

finishing in 5:38.44.

In the field events, senior Sada Wright placed sixth in the women's weight throw event after a 16.67 meter throw.

Freshman Olivia Cress and sophomore Eden Williams competed in the women's high jump event, earning sixth place and 11th place respectively. Cress jumped 1.64 meters and Williams jumped 1.59 meters to finish off the weekend for the team.

The track and field team is scheduled to compete again next week at the Marshall Invite on Feb. 10-11 in Huntington, West Virginia.

Four WVU golfers finish two day invitational play

BY JONATHAN HAMILTON

STAFF WRITER

The Mountaineer golf team finished a two-day event on Monday at Georgia Southern University's golf course in Statesboro, Georgia.

Four Mountaineers played on Sunday, with freshman Kaleb Wilson leading the way for WVII.

Wilson shot a 74 in his first round, and a 71 in his second — good for +1 on the first day since the course is a par 72. He finished 16th overall in the entire pool by the end of day one.

Sophomore Todd Duncan shot a 73 and 75, good for +4 and 23rd overall.

Oli Ménard struggled a little bit in his two rounds, posting a 76 and 78 and finishing +10. Fifth-year senior Kurtis Grant had a rough first round (79) but had a stronger second round with a 74.

On day two of competition, Wilson struggled compared to his first two rounds with a 78 but still had the lowest score for the four West Virginia golfers. He finished with a 223, or +7 and a 29th place finish.

Ménard finished with a 75



PHOTO COURTESY WVU ATH

Curtis Grant watches a shot at the 2021 WVU Invitational.

in his third round, his best, and rounded out his three rounds with a 229 (+13).

Grant finished at (+15), shooting a 78 on Monday with a total of 231.

Duncan rounded out the group with a (+20), shooting an 88.

West Virginia's next event will be the Gator Invitational, hosted by the University of Florida.

The event will begin Saturday, Feb. 11, and end on Sunday, Feb. 12. The golfers will play on the Mark Bostick Golf Course in Gainesville, Florida, starting at 8 a.m. on both days.



WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 2023 CLASSIFIEDS | 15



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A JAPODCAST SERIES 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.



Online Roadmap (WVU Online)

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GradLife 601 podcast series, we'll share the achievements and insights of West Virginia University graduate students and faculty. We'll discuss their experiences and how they came to be passionate about their research. We'll also talk about life beyond the lab and academy. GradLife 601: Research and Beyond is sponsored by the WVU Provost's

Office of Graduate Education and Life and hosted by Dr. Nancy Caronia, a Teaching Associate Professor in the Department of English at West Virginia University.



Every Wednesday, Wellbeing Wednesdays is a weekly podcast exploring what wellbeing means at West Virginia University. Listen to get to know more about the folks doing work on the ground at the university in addition to some light-hearted fun as we take a look at wellbeing in popular culture.

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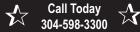
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