THE DA

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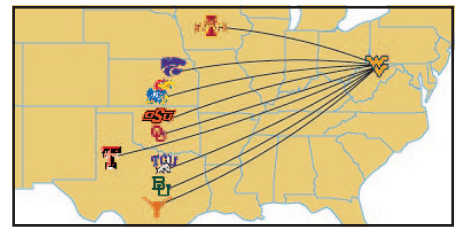

Travel distance tough on Mountaineers

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WVU's Independent Student Newspaper MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020 www.thedaonline.com

Bell-ringing ceremony held for three Mountaineers

BY ALAYNA FULLER, COLE MCCLANAHAN AND SETH SEEBAUGH
NEWS EDITOR, CULTURE EDITOR AND PHOTOGRAPHER

Anita Robertson (white coat), mother of Chloe Robertson, hugs a ceremony-goer.

On Friday, WVU held a bell ringing ceremony to honor the memory of three students.

Kim Mosby, senior associate dean of the WVU Care Team, spoke about the memory of the students to a crowd of around 50 gathered at Oglebay Plaza.

"On behalf of West Virginia University, President E. Gordon Gee and the Office of Campus and Community Life, I would like to express our condolences, [and] our sympathies to the family and friends, the roommates, the classmates and instructors of Noah Shaffer, Sierra Mattson and Chloe Robertson."

Robertson, 21, a criminology student, died after her car was struck by a drunk driver on Jan. 25 in the Philadelphia area. A vigil was recently held in her honor.

Mattson, 25, a professional development student, died Nov. 23 in a car accident, and Shaffer, 16, a student in the High School ACCESS Early College Program, died Nov. 28.

"I'm heartbroken, numb [and] uneasy not knowing where she is," said Lauren Robertson, older sister of Chloe Robertson. "I feel robbed. Robbed not only of a little sister, but robbed on behalf of her for knowing that she was so excited for the next year of her life."

Robertson said her sister had been robbed of life because somebody got behind the wheel of a car when they were drunk.

"It was a conscious disregard for Chloe's life, and she's not here as a result of it," Robertson said. "Remember that life is fragile, and I would tell anybody that was going to the bar that no Uber is too expensive. Those keys should never go in the ignition in the first place."

Robertson said she wants her sister to be remembered for her infectious smile, goofy sense of humor, caring personality and love for WVU. "Chloe's favorite place on earth was West Virginia University," Robertson said. "She was destined to be here, and she loved it before she even stepped on campus, so the fact that the school got together and did something like this for her not only felt like she was a part of the West Virginia family, but she was truly loved."

See **Ceremony** page 3

Campus carry, tax credit among WV bills on University's radar

BY GABRIELLA BROWN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Several bills that could impact the University continue to be on the WVU Government Relation Team's radar, many of which carried over from the 2019 session.

Campus Carry

One of the bills introduced in the first few weeks of the new year was on campus carry.

Travis Mollohan, WVU director of State and Local Relations, said this topic has continued to come up. Last year, campus carry passed the House of Delegates but sputtered out on the state's Senate side.

Mollohan said most of the bills that deal with campus carry are carry-over bills, meaning they are reintroduced by legislators or did not complete legislative action last year.

Of these, only one new bill was introduced by one senator. Mollohan said when only one senator sponsors a bill, typically it does not lead to anything beyond that.

"We continue to talk to folks in Charleston about it, [and] we continue to monitor it," Mollohan said. "This year we do believe campus carry will not run and will not be considered by the Legislature."

However, a bill that did pass last year was the "parking lot bill," which allows students, faculty and staff members parking in a University lot to be able to have a gun in their car. The gun is not permitted to leave the car and must remain in the glove box, console or somewhere locked inside the car.

Mollohan said alongside this policy, those on campus who may feel unsafe or in need of protection can contact the University Police.

"UPD also has a policy that if folks are under imminent threat or are being stalked, they can work with them to make sure they are protected while on campus," Mollohan said. "A bill like this would take local control from us, and we think that it is important for the Morgantown community and for WVU to decide whether or not guns are permitted on campus."

See **Bills** page 3

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WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

MONDAY 02/10
Rain.
HIGH 47° - LOW 43°

TUESDAY 02/11
AM Showers.
HIGH 46° - LOW 30°

WEDNESDAY 02/12
PM Rain.
HIGH 45° - LOW 42°

CRIME REPORT

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Feb. 6
9:18 p.m. | Clear by Citation
Evansdale Dr./Fine Arts Dr.
Traffic Stop

Feb. 6
9:08 p.m. | Closed - Resolved
WVU Lyon Tower
Drug Incident

Feb. 6
8:53 p.m. | Clear by Citation
Evansdale Dr./Fine Arts Dr.
Traffic Stop

Feb. 6
8:51 p.m. | Clear by Warning
693 North High St.
Drug Incident

Feb. 6
8:41 p.m. | Clear by Citation
Evansdale Dr./Fine Arts Dr.
Traffic Stop

Feb. 6
8:25 p.m. | Clear by Citation
Evansdale Dr./Fine Arts Dr.
Traffic Stop

Feb. 6
8:24 p.m. | Clear by Warning
693 North High St.
Drug Incident

Feb. 6
8:01 p.m. | Unfounded
600 North High St.
Drug Incident

Feb. 6
8:03 p.m. | Clear by Citation
Evansdale Dr./Fine Arts Dr.
Traffic Stop

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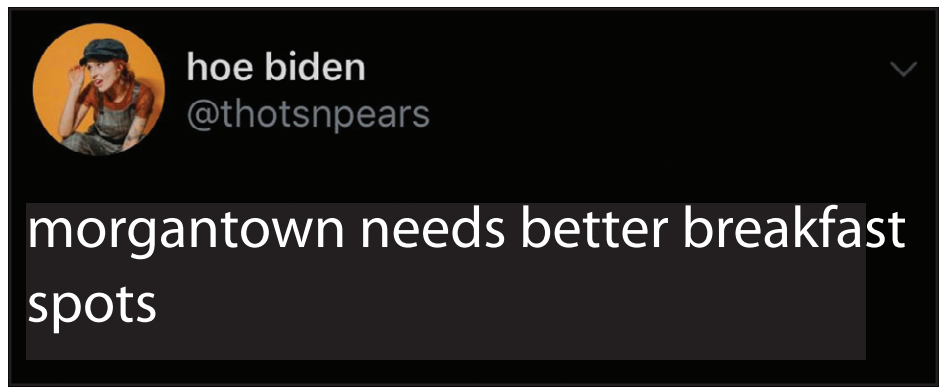

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WVU's INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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Ceremony

Continued from page 1

Shane and Alicia Shaffer, parents of Noah Shaffer, said they were looking forward to bringing their son on a campus tour of WVU, and that he would have felt like he was a part of something here.

"He was very goal driven," Alicia Shaffer said. "He had goals, and he had dreams. It just feels like this would have been the perfect place for him."

"We were just appreciative of West Virginia having this recognition for him," Shane Shaffer said.

Mosby spoke on behalf of Mattson at the ceremony.

"Sierra was always smiling and brought sunshine to those who she touched, even on the darkest days," Mosby said. "She was very determined and friends remember her as one of the strongest, and most fearless people they've ever met."

At the end of the ceremony, the families of the students were presented with a certificate from Gee and Dean of Students Corey Farris honoring each student's life and contributions to West Virginia University.

"Even though Noah, Sierra and Chloe were very different, they had a lot in common," Mosby said. "All three seemed to be amazing, compassionate, laughter-filled, fun-loving people who were loved by many. They will always be alive on our campus, in our hearts and in our lives through the wonderful memories and experiences we have together."

Shane Shaffer (left) and his wife Alicia Shaffer (middle) speak at the ceremony honoring their son, Noah Shaffer.

After the ceremony, Provost Maryanne Reed talks with loved ones of those honored at the ceremony.

Corey Farris, the dean of students, stands to the side after the ceremony.

Anita Robertson, Chloe's mother, talks to people who attended the ceremony.

Bills

Continued from page 1

$1,000 tax credit to recent graduates

House Bill 4014 would provide a $1,000 income tax credit for five years to new graduates of an in-state or out-of-state higher education institution or trade school.

"Basically what it is saying to new graduates is stay in West Virginia," Mollohan said. "It's what legislators would deem a way to attract young people with new ideas, or new business concepts to the state."

Mollohan said that since being introduced, the bill has not progressed. He said this is not surprising due to a tight budget and the costs that would come with instating this type of program.

Needle Exchange Program

Mollohan said many of the bills the University tracks are those that impact health sciences. One of these bills the relations team has focused on during this session is whether or not to prohibit needle exchange programs.

These programs give access to sterile equipment, such as syringes, to drug users. The purpose of this is to prevent the spread of disease through unsanitary needle usage.

If this bill passes, all existing programs will be shut down.

"It's a very controversial program for a number of reasons," Mollohan said. "I think it is important for everyone to realize that one of the reasons that a needle exchange program doesn't work is because usually the community is very fearful."

Mollohan said this fear comes from the possibility that drug users or vendors follow these programs, causing the police to be on edge. Drug users are also fearful to use these programs because of the possibility they will be arrested.

The LEND Program at the WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities is recruiting graduate students from health and related disciplines for graduate assistantships starting in Fall 2020.

The mission of the LEND Disabilities Outreach Program is to interact with service providers and families in an effort to determine resource and informa-tion needs, research and identify requested resources, make recommendations to improve the Center's inventory of the Disability Resource Library, and promote the use of existing resources within the state. Life experience as a person with a disability, a family member of person with a disability, or as an advocate for persons with disabilities is preferred. Selected students may be awarded a tuition waiver and stipend.

APPLICATIONS

Applications are **due by March 13, 2020.** To be eligible, applicants must be U.S. Citizens.

For more information, visit http://www.lend.cedwvu.org/trainee-application/ or contact Diane Williams at awilliams@hsc.wvu.edu or by calling 304-293-4692. Or, **scan the QR code** to be taken right to the application page.

Bit by the travel bug: a one-man musician on the road

BY DUNCAN SLADE
PHOTOGRAPHER

As snow flurries fall on Pleasant Street in Morgantown, Shawn Taylor arrives in his Honda CRV. He unloads his traveling one-man band show, complete with two guitars, five harmonicas and a percussion section run by his feet. Taylor travels the country playing music wherever the road takes him, and today, that is Morgantown. The owner of Black Beat Burritos greets him with a familiar smile and his usual plate of fish tacos. It's his sixth or seventh time playing here, and he'll be back in the summer again. Taylor says he was bitten by the travel bug at a young age, and he has lived on the road for much of his life. He has thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail, John Muir Trail and Long Trail. He picked up a guitar at the age of 11 and got serious around the age of 20. He's been playing his tunes for any crowd that will listen ever since.

Taylor performs during his opening set. He calls his music Wandering Roots. This name comes from his traveling nature and the many influences in his music. He also says it's a statement on the country as a whole, which is a "wandering place, unsure of its identity."

Taylor pulls musical inspiration from many places, but he loves to write about the world around him. He's currently working on a book of short stories and music about his thru-hiking experience and how it relates to everyday life.

Taylor is a one-man band. He plays a kickdrum with his right foot and plays a shaker and bells with the left. He says he saw a friend rubberband the shaker to his foot at a show a couple of weeks ago. The rubberband method is still a work in progress.

Taylor adjusts the levels on his soundboard. He often travels by himself, but each summer travels with his family for a few weeks. As a family, they mix shows with activites and they travel the country in a CRV and tent.

Taylor talks with Seldon Rios, a Morgantown resident. Rios played what he called, "A funky version of the boys are back in town." He says he mainly plays in his home for fun and to relax.

Taylor has worn a hole in both of his guitars from continued use.

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PHOTO VIA WVU ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The cast of "Rent."

'Rent' star talks about life, the show before taking to WVU stage

BY RAEANNE BECKNER
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

Cody Jenkins will performing at the WVU Creative Arts Center on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. as part of the national tour of the musical "Rent." The Daily Athenaeum interviewed Jenkins and talked to him about his life and the show.

Cody Jenkins did not always have dreams of being centerstage and performing for audiences all over the world.

"I was playing sports when I was a kid, and when I was about 13, my mom wanted me to join theater camp with my sister, but I played baseball, football and wrestled growing up," said Jenkins, the actor portraying Mark Cohen in the Broadway tour of "Rent."

After attending camp with his sister and playing Linus in "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown," Jenkins knew he found his place.

Although Jenkins found a passion worth pursuing, the road to Broadway was sometimes rocky.

"I went to Texas State [University], initially, just as a performance and production major, so I technically still had a Bachelors of Fine Arts, but I was not in an intensive program," Jenkins said. "All of my freshman year I was working hard to try to re-audition the next year to get into the program, and I was fortunate to get seen in the audition and join my current class in acting."

Upon graduation, Jenkins worked on the Norwegian Sky cruise line as a principle production singer and went to Florida to appear in a musical "Now and Then."

He then moved to New York City with the goal of auditioning for "Rent."

"I saw 'Rent' was holding auditions, and I really, really, wanted to be a part of the show because it is one of my favorite shows," Jenkins said. "I got in the room and had my audition, and the rest is history."

At the beginning of December 2018, he joined the cast as a replacement for the character Gordon and an understudy for the role of Roger Davis.

It was not until the summer when the show was recasting that Jenkins landed his current role of Mark Cohen.

"I went in for auditions really just to be seen as a Mark understudy because I thought if I kept the job they gave me, I would just add a new part, and then it turned into me being Mark," he said.

Immediately after leaving his role of Gordon, Jenkins had a week off before he was handed the camera and scarf that came with the role of Cohen.

Traveling the world with a touring production was a bit of a culture-shock for Jenkins, who found it tough to be away from family and friends.

"I was used to a certain degree of being on the road. I was homeless for a while during college, and I was struggling a little bit when I got out of college, so I kind of knew what it was like living out of a suitcase for months and not having a place to call your own," he said. "It's definitely a different lifestyle, a different pace for your life, but when you love what you do you can't really complain."

PHOTO VIA WVU ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Cody Jenkins portraying Mark Cohen in "Rent."

To this date, Jenkins has portrayed Cohen in about 130 performances of "Rent" and has been in more than 300 performances of the show in total.

"Today 4 U" and "Tango: Maureen" are his favorite sections of the production.

"I get to be around a lot of the primary characters, and there is a lot of storytelling going on," Jenkins said. "It doesn't look relaxed, but for us it is a bit more relaxed, yet high-energy and fun."

Jenkins said when the cast and crew first arrive at a new theater, they only have two hours to complete sound checks, walk the stage, get into costume and makeup and do whatever else is necessary before the show starts.

"We're always constantly moving and constantly having to adjust," he said. "It adds a whole other layer to the day-to-day."

West Virginia is one of few states Jenkins has not yet visited on his tour.

"I don't even know what to expect. I just hope we have a really good time," he said. "We're only there for a day, so we don't have too much time to explore, but I am excited to see what West Virginia is about."

ILLUSTRATION BY CAROLINE MURPHY

Clutch Wing Shop: A nugget of joy with the sauce to match

BY RYAN MAIDEN
FOOD CRITIC

Just like pizza, burgers and tacos, wings are not rare commodities in Morgantown. A place really has to set itself apart from the pack when it comes to flavor or price if it wants to make a name selling wings.

Clutch Wing Shop accomplishes this with its vast selection of sauces as well as consistency of flavor.

Clutch Wing Shop opened in 2013 when there really wasn't a place that specialized in wing delivery. Created by the owner of Tailpipes, Evan Tauber, with managing partner Joe Reilly, Clutch Wing Shop has become a staple of the High Street food scene not only because it's the only wing-focused restaurant there, but because of the cult-following it has behind all of its food.

Andrew King, a student at WVU and Clutch fanatic, let me get a glimpse behind why people love it so much.

"I've probably spent enough money here to cover a year of tuition — I'm a big fan," King said. "Whenever I have people over to watch a game or something, we always order the big 50 box of nuggets with loads of ranch and sweet chili sauce."

Surprisingly, its chicken nuggets are probably one of the more popular items. Its box of 50 costs only $20, and a more reasonable 18-count is only about $9. This doesn't mean anything is particularly wrong with the wings, but like any good wing shop, the real flavor comes out in the sauces.

Having counted, Clutch has around 30 sauces that truly cover all the bases. When it comes to my preferences, I am a big fan of the Mango Habanero when I'm feeling spicy; like King, the Sweet Chili is for all other occasions.

On my visit to Clutch this time around, I decided to test out some of its other dishes and went for the famous chicken tenders. Not only was it a great deal, but it was filling too. The tenders themselves were crispy, as one might expect, but followed by a delectable juicy texture.

LOCATION:
444 High St.

HOURS:
Monday-Saturday:
11 a.m. - Midnight

Sunday
11 a.m. - 11 p.m.

ORDER:
Take-out and delivery options

- chownow.com
- grubhub.com
- seamless.com
- postmates.com

I noticed that compared to tenders you may get at your average restaurant, the breading around the chicken seemed thicker and more homemade, if you will. Getting my choice of sauce from the advice of the server working behind the counter, I was informed that the honey mustard is made in-store and never bought from elsewhere. Included with the whopping six tenders was a host of tater tots that complimented the meal well.

Apart from its nuggets, wings and tenders, Clutch Wing Shop offers chicken tender sandwiches, popcorn chicken wraps, popcorn chicken salads, as well as several delicious tater tot dishes. For those who aren't "feeling the fried," as the menu indicates, house pulled chicken can be subbed for any of the sandwiches, wraps and salads.

Clutch Wing Shop is located at 444 High Street, offering take-out and delivery, and is open Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

OPINION

Staff Contributions
danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu

PRT promises: facebook readers respond

On Thursday, the Daily Athenaeum published an article called "Students soon to see shorter wait times and faster arrivals on PRT," which is about a new PRT system where a PRT will arrive from its station and take passengers to their stop without pausing to pick up or drop off other passengers when a destination is selected. Here's what some of our Facebook commenters thought about the article and the system. The wording of the comments has not been modified in any way.

STAFF PHOTO

This is how it was when I was in undergrad. I still ride all the time as an employee and have thought it was better with the all stations mode, but then again I don't ride it during peak class times. Hopefully it's better because of other (computer related) improvements that have been made, not simply using this particular mode.

I guess they've been running it in All Stations mode? Sounds like they broke it and are trying to sell the fix as some big improvement.

Oh like Destination Dispatch for elevators

Haha it's going back to how it was originally designed to do

I like it !!!

It had Demand Mode from the time it was built until recently. How did they F it up?

Used the PRT every day...in 4 years, only one break down.

My kids said this week has been horrible with the PRT. Constantly delayed and causing people to miss appointments and classes. Seems the bus lines are a better choice right now

During my senior year, the PRT broke down one afternoon. I was about halfway between the Beechurst station and the PRT maintenance building heading towards Beechurst. They had to shut off the power. After about a half hour just sitting there, a worker walked up the track and opened our car from the outside. About 15 of us had to walk on the track from there to Beechurst. Luckily, I was done with classes for the day and the weather was nice.

So what it always used to do?

On Thursday, the Daily Athenaeum published an article called "Student opinions varied on possible Coliseum naming rights deal," which is about the insight of students into a possible name change of the Coliseum. According to a report from Mike Casazza of 247Sports, the athletic department is open to selling the facility's naming rights. Here's what some of our Facebook commenters thought about the article and the possible name change. The wording of the comments has not been modified in any way.

How about "we dont pay property taxes and country roads show it Coliseum" ???

Trust me, your tuition won't be lowered !!!!!

Pie plate

Can't they just leave it alone. Why change it?

The Sheetz MTO Coliseum has a nice ring to it. Lol.

IT will go to the highest bidder. I have referred to WVU as "Minnie Pearl U" for decades and suggest the Mountaineer have a price tag hanging from his coonskin hat.

Jerry West stadium

How much money is enough for athletics because I'm quite sure nothing will go toward the normal students.

At one time the name was going to be jerry west.

When i was little me and my brother called it 'The Seashell' lol

Sheetz Coliseum

No. It will always be THE COLISEUM! The name shouldn't be changed

Campus Canteen Coliseum

They can name it whatever they want. Just win games in the building and bring Morgantown a championship.

Huggins Pavilion.

I don't care what you decide to change the name to it will ALWAYS be the WVU Coliseum just like the stadium will always be Mountaineer field.

Name it after the man who designed it. When I picked up an aircraft in Ft Lauderdale at Premier Aircraft Sales a few year ago, the Office lady told me that her father had designed the coliseum. Those who deserve recognition never get it because of politics.

As an alum, I say hell no. Stop selling off our history and culture to the highest bidder. Christ sakes.

The Google

Huggins Court at Jerry West Stadium

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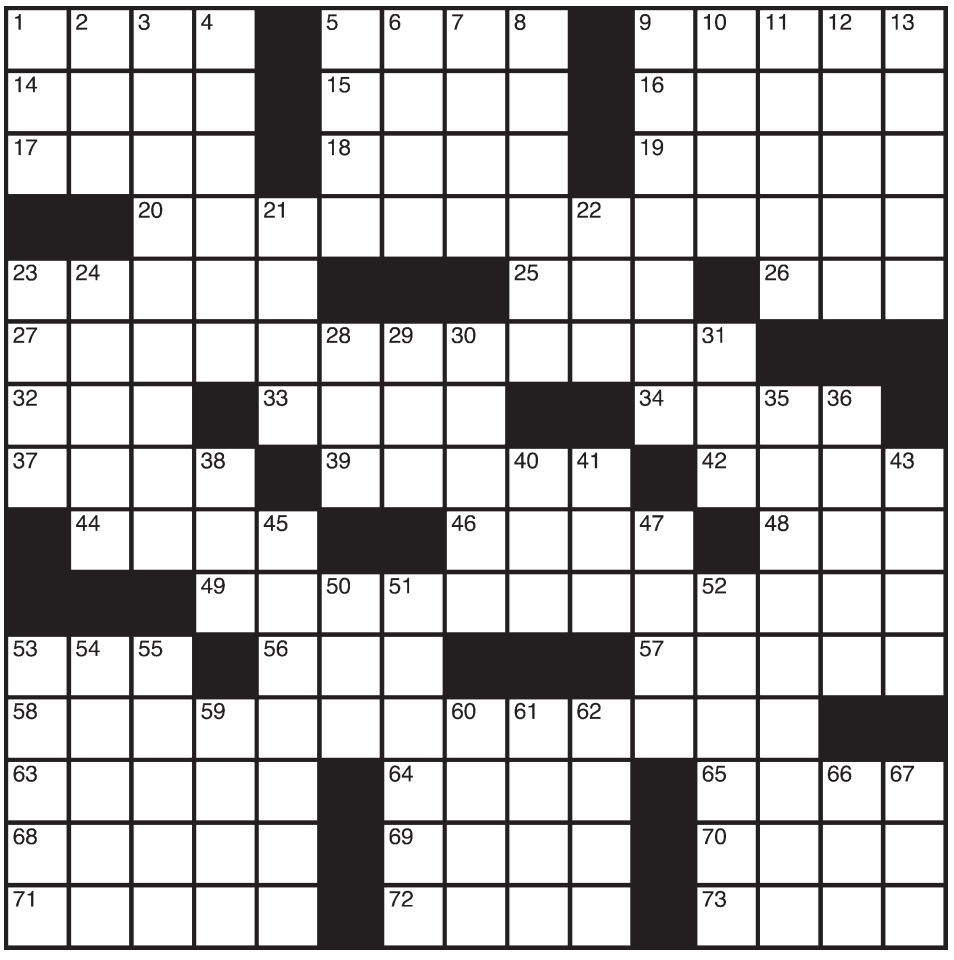

Across
1 Healthful berry
5 Sommelier's concern
9 San Antonio cagers
14 Bananas
15 "... the __ blackness of the floors": Poe
16 "The Fox and the Grapes" storyteller
17 Dutch cheese
18 Way to go
19 Queen's milieu
20 "That's fine"
23 Get going
25 "Knives Out" Golden Globe nominee de Armas
26 Lansing-to-Flint dir.
27 "That's all folks"
32 1960s chess champ Mikhail
33 Mustard family member
34 They're tapped
37 Bundle
39 On the money
42 Kentucky coach with 876 victories
44 Foolhardy
46 __ avis
48 Mex. title
49 "That's not the point"
53 Withdrawal site
56 Carnival city
57 Words before "so sue me"
58 "That's rich"
63 Polynesian language
64 Sitar music
65 Yemen's Gulf of __
68 Conclude with
69 Indicator
70 Feet-first race
71 Video chat choice
72 "What __ is new?"
73 MP3 player

Down
1 Cream __
2 Fish that's salted and dried to make bacalao
3 Like Pentatonix numbers
4 Flying insect with prominent eyespots
5 Bookish type
6 Wind up on stage?
7 Fly like an eagle
8 Win over
9 Hapless sort
10 Ucayali River country
11 Grammarian's concern
12 Type type
13 Just-in-case item
21 "The Caine Mutiny" novelist
22 Paternity identifier
23 Web address letters
24 Atheist activist Madalyn
28 Deface
29 "When We Were Kings" boxer
30 Pola of the silents
31 Poetic contraction
35 Dressed to the nines
36 Wild period
38 Uncommon sense
40 Actor Holbrook
41 Amount past due?
43 Ranch bud
45 Wonder Woman, for one
47 Plot-driving song, perhaps
50 Zilch
51 Rough around the edges
52 High-pH compound
53 Summits
54 "__ goodness"
55 Temperamental
59 Edit for size, as a photo
60 Follow
61 Confident juggler's props
62 Candy __
66 It may need a boost
67 Flanders who inspired the band Okilly Dokilly

For answers, visit thedaonline.com

PET OF THE DAY

RIO VERDE
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Level 1 2 3 **4**

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Travel distance tough on Mountaineers

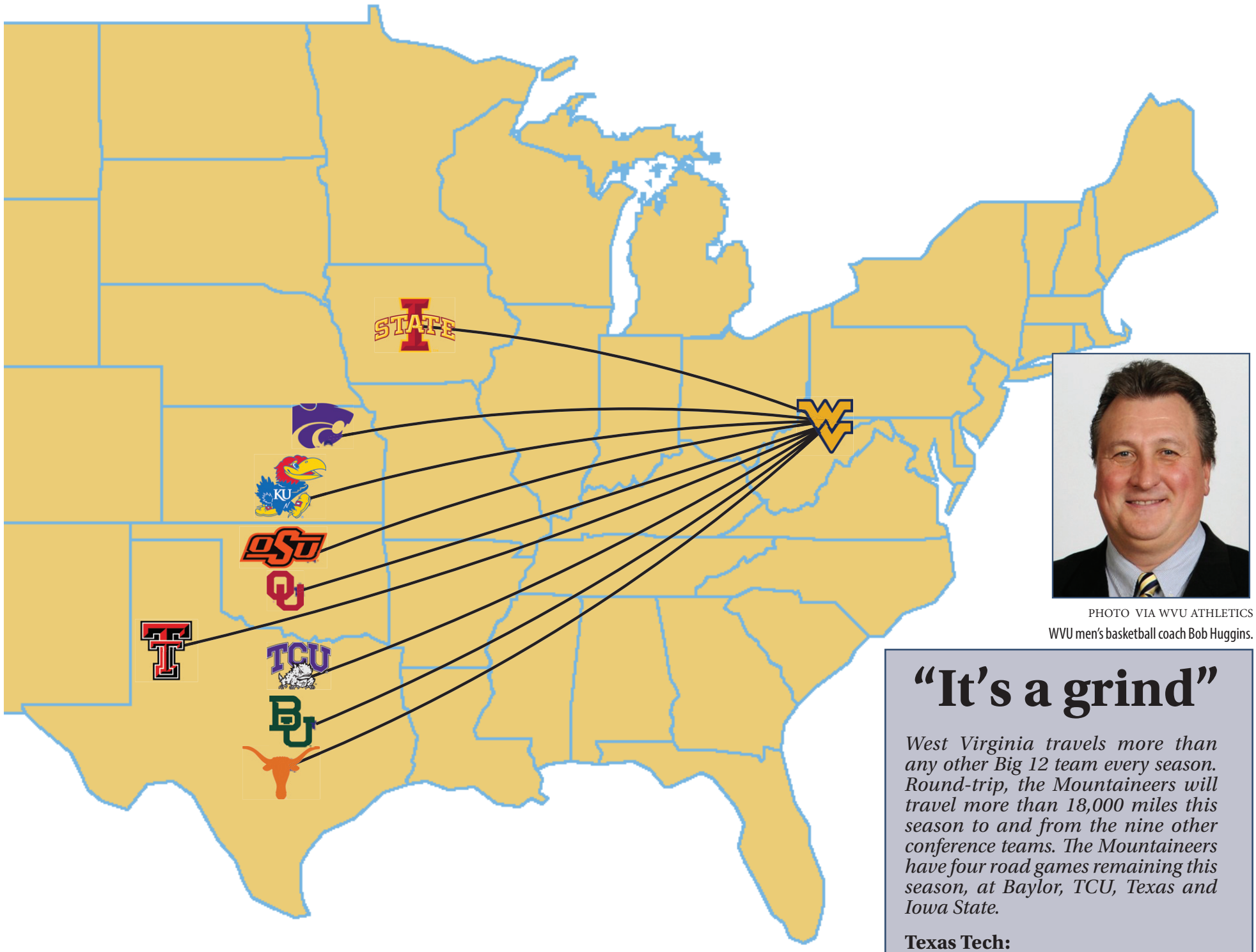

PHOTO VIA WVU ATHLETICS
WVU men's basketball coach Bob Huggins.

BY CODY NESPOR
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

No major conference college basketball team travels as much as West Virginia does just for conference play.

In the Big 12, Morgantown is not close to any other conference team. The closet Big 12 road game the Mountaineers play each season is against Kansas in Lawrence. Even that is an 817 mile trip.

The Mountaineers have struggled on the road in conference so far this season, winning only one of their five road games in conference. WVU coach Bob Huggins said that the travel is not an excuse, but it is a factor.

"It's a grind," Huggins said after losing at Oklahoma Saturday. "Not to make an excuse, I think it's true that fact that our travel's tough, it's tough. It's tough on me and I don't play, I can imagine those guys."

West Virginia's furthest trip each season is going to Lubbock, Texas: to play Texas Tech, 1,280 miles. The team made that trip on Jan. 29 and lost 89-81.

"We get back from Lubbock at five in the morning and they've got school and study hall and all those things," Huggins explained. "And we've got good guys, they go to class, they go to study hall, they do what they're supposed to do. It's not easy. That's not an excuse that's just a fact."

Senior guard Jermaine Haley went through the Big 12 schedule last season, a year in which the Mountaineers did not win a single road conference game.

"That's kind of been the story of our season on the road, just coming out flat," Haley said. "We've got to execute and have that same intensity as soon as the game tips off... It's difficult, it always hurts especially when they're teams we're supposed to beat."

While they struggle on the road, the Mountaineers are perfect at home, winning all 12 game played at the Coliseum this season. Haley said if they cannot win on the road, they have to keep winning at home.

"I know eventually we'll get a win and we'll get rolling but as long as we get back to Morgantown and taking care of the house I think we'll be in good shape."

Even in his first season, freshman Miles McBride has realized how tough traveling can be.

"I think it's about attitude and effort," McBride said. "Being at home you're more comfortable, you know everything around you, you're good with the setting. Here you're dealing with a lot of traveling, everything like that."

West Virginia has four Big 12 road game left on the schedule. Their next away game will be in Waco, Texas against the No. 1 Baylor Bears, a trip that will be 1,111 miles.

"It's a grind"

West Virginia travels more than any other Big 12 team every season. Round-trip, the Mountaineers will travel more than 18,000 miles this season to and from the nine other conference teams. The Mountaineers have four road games remaining this season, at Baylor, TCU, Texas and Iowa State.

Texas Tech:
Lubbock, Texas: 1,280 miles
Texas:
Austin, Texas: 1,193 miles
Baylor:
Waco, Texas: 1,111 miles
TCU:
Fort Worth, Texas: 1,077 miles
Oklahoma State:
Stillwater, Oklahoma: 1,053 miles
Oklahome:
Norman, Oklahoma: 1,004 miles
Iowa State:
Ames, Iowa: 920 miles
Kansas State:
Manhattan, Kansas: 886 miles
Kansas:
Lawrence, Kansas: 817 miles

PHOTO BY SETH SEEBAUGH

Freshman guard Miles McBride handles the ball against Texas Tech at the WVU Coliseum on Jan. 11.

Mountaineers taking on No. 3 Kansas Jayhawks in high-powered rematch

BY MATTHEW DIGBY
SPORTS WRITER

The West Virginia men's basketball team will return home for a game to face the No. 3 Kansas Jayhawks on Wednesday night at the WVU Coliseum.

This will be the first of two-straight games where the Mountaineers (18-5, 6-4 Big 12) will face top five opponents, ending the week with a road trip to No. 1 Baylor on Saturday.

WVU has had a lot of success against Kansas (20-3, 9-1) at home in recent years, winning five of the last six meetings in Morgantown. In the lone loss, WVU had as much as a 16-point lead but couldn't hold on and fell by five on Jan. 15, 2018.

The Mountaineers have also not lost a home game yet this season, sitting at 12-0 so far.

This season, the Jayhawks defeated the Mountaineers at Kansas on Jan. 4, 60-53.

Coming off a loss on the road against the Oklahoma Sooners on Saturday, WVU will also look to continue another streak of success following a loss, responding all four times and going 4-0 when coming off a defeat.

If the Mountaineers plan to continue that streak, they will need the inside duo of freshman Oscar Tshiebwe and sophomore Derek Culver to hold their own against a dominating inside presence led by Kansas' Wooden Award finalist Udoka Azubuike.

Azubuike leads the Big 12 in rebounding this season, pulling down 9.7 boards per game. He also leads the country in field goal percentage, hitting 76% of his attempts. He is coming off a terrific performance on the road against the TCU Horned Frogs, finishing with 20 points on 10-of-14 shooting from the field, 15 rebounds and five blocks.

Culver and Tshiebwe will need to play better than they did on Saturday against the Sooners when the duo combined to finish with 16 points on 7-of-26 shooting. They combined to rip down 18 rebounds.

Another key matchup will be at the point guard position, where Kansas has another Wooden Award finalist in sophomore Devon Dotson, who averaged 18 points per game and 4.4 assists per game. He is shooting 47% from the field but only 28% from three.

Much of the defensive assignment will likely land with freshman guard Miles "Deuce" McBride, who will also need to contribute offensively. He has cooled off as of late, having scored nine points on 4-of-10 shooting in the last game against Oklahoma.

The only other Jayhawk averaging double figure points is sophomore Ochai Agbaji, who averages 10.3 points per contest and is one of the Jayhawk's best three-point shooters at 36%. The only better three-point shooters by percentage are senior Isaiah Moss at 37% and freshman Christian Braun at 42%.

Despite all the accolades and highlights that many of these Kansas players have racked up, the team's most important player is arguably junior Marcus Garrett. He averages 9.2 points per game and 4.5 assists per game, but his real impact comes on the defensive end, having the ability to guard any position on the floor.

The game on Wednesday is set to tip off at 7 p.m. and will be a gold rush. The game can be streamed on Big 12 Now as a part of ESPN+.

PHOTO BY JAMES KNABLE

Redshirt Junior Kyrse Gondrezick puts up a tough shot against Iowa State at the Coliseum.

Women's hoops looking to bounce back against K-State

BY DANNY KUHN
SPORTS WRITER

The West Virginia women's basketball team looks to snap a two-game losing streak on Tuesday when the team plays host to the Kansas State Wildcats at the WVU Coliseum.

Big 12 play has been a struggle for the Mountaineers (14-7, 4-6 Big 12) as they have lost six of their last seven games. WVU came off a tough loss last night in Stillwater, Oklahoma, where the team lost, 60-57, to Oklahoma State.

WVU beat Kansas State (10-11, 4-6 Big 12) on the road, 73-64, on Jan. 5. The Mountaineers will look to employ the same strategies from that game into the game on Tuesday, including shooting hot from behind the arc. WVU went 10-for-28 from the three-point line on that night, compared to the Tigers' 1-for-15.

Three-point shooting has been a struggle for the Mountaineers over the last couple of games, but the team will turn to guards Kysre Gondrezick and Tynice Martin to shoot well from the field in order to find success.

On Saturday against Oklahoma State, Martin led the team in rebounding with eight rebounds, as well as seven points. Gondrezick led the way for the Mountaineers in one of her better shooting performances of the last month, ending with 13 points.

One area that WVU has struggled with all season is turnovers, but K-State only forced the Mountaineers to turn the ball over 13 times in the first meeting between the two teams. In the team's last game against the Baylor Bears, K-State turned the ball over 12 times.

Tuesday's game against Kansas State is the first of two straight home games at the WVU Coliseum for the women's team, as it plays the Texas Tech Red Raiders on Feb. 15. Tipoff for Tuesday is set for 7 p.m. and is viewable on MountaineerTV.

Who could replace Al Pogue on the WVU coaching staff?

BY JARED SERRE
SPORTS EDITOR

West Virginia outside linebackers coach Al Pogue left the program on Saturday to take a job at Auburn, leaving a gaping hole on the team's defensive staff.

Having followed head coach Neal Brown from Troy prior to the start of last season, Pogue was a key figure in the development of the bandit linebacker position.

In Pogue, the Mountaineers are losing a coach that has been described as a "high-energy" guy. He also was a threat on the recruiting trail, having played a pivotal role in the recent signing of three-star linebacker Eddie Watkins, among other 2020 recruits.

With spring practice set to get underway within the next month or so, who could the Mountaineers target to join the coaching staff?

Brandon Hall, Troy defensive coordinator

Currently serving as the defensive coordinator at Troy, it may be considered a step down for Hall to take a Power 5 positional coach job. Yet, such a move would reunite him with Neal Brown, who Hall worked under during the 2018 season at Troy.

Hall just wrapped up his first season leading the Trojans' defense. The team ended the 2019 campaign having the No. 3 rush defense of the Sun Belt Conference, en route to a 5-7 record.

Prior to his stint at Troy, Hall served as the co-defensive coordinator at Jacksonville State. He has also previously held roles at Auburn, Arkansas State and Oklahoma.

Bam Hardmon, Troy defensive ends/bandits coach

Like Hall, Hardmon is also a member of Brown's coaching tree, having worked under him at Troy from 2015-18.

Hardmon, a former NFL linebacker, has filled a variety of positions at the collegiate level including defensive line coach, inside linebackers coach and defensive run game coordinator.

Dave Plungas, Robert Morris defensive coordinator/ linebackers coach

Plungas is no stranger to the area, having worked up the road at Robert Morris University for the past two seasons. As defensive coordinator last season, Plungus led the Colonials' defense to a No. 3 ranking in interceptions in the FCS' Northeast Conference.

Off the field, Plungas recently followed a variety of West Virginia staff members on Twitter, including Brown, defensive line coach Jordan Lesley and director of football operations Patrick Johnston.

Jon Sumrall, Kentucky inside linebackers coach

Despite never coaching in the Big 12 Conference, Sumrall has a history with Brown. When Brown was hired as the head coach at Troy in 2015, Sumrall joined his staff to coach linebackers and special teams.

In addition to his connection to Brown, Sumrall holds six years of experience coaching linebackers, making stops at Tulane, Ole Miss and Kentucky in the process.

Ron West, West Virginia senior defensive analyst

The Mountaineers may not have to look very far to fill the job. West is perhaps one of the most experienced members of the current WVU coaching staff, having built a lengthy coaching career before coming to Morgantown last fall.

West has coaching experience on both sides of the ball. Having served as the co-offensive line coach at Georgia Tech in his most recent stint before coming to WVU, he has also held various defensive roles, such as defensive coordinator, linebackers coach and defensive line coach.

With his experience, however, comes another issue: age. West, who has been involved with college football in some capacity for nearly 40 years, may not want to be the low man on the totem pole as a positional coach.

PHOTO VIA WVU ATHLETICS

Al Pogue
College Coaching History

- **2011:** Auburn Offensive Quality Control
- **2012:** Auburn Special Teams Quality Control
- **2013:** Auburn High School Relations
- **2014-18:** Troy Cornerbacks
- **2019:** West Virginia Outside Linebackers
- **2020:** Auburn Defensive Backs

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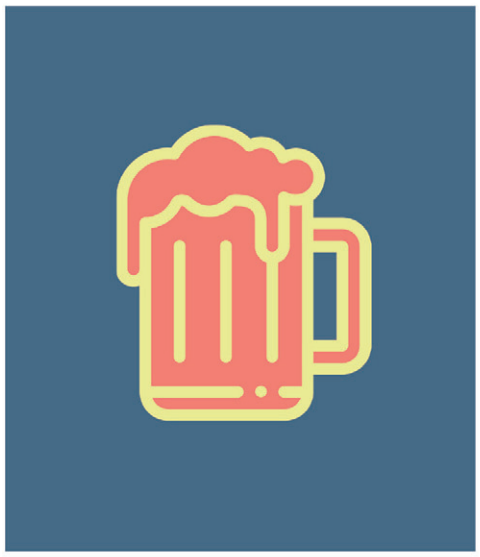

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