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WVU's Independent Student Newspaper

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2022

www.thedaonline.com

# WVU board turns up the heat on Sodexo after raw chicken incident

DUNCAN SLADE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Two executives from Sodexo, the international company that runs WVU dining halls and campus eateries, spoke to the University Board of Governors Friday after a rocky period for campus dining halls.

Earlier this month, the Daily Athenaeum reported on a student who was served raw chicken in a campus dining hall and health inspectors finding dozens of violations in Sodexo-run kitchens.

Sodexo Senior Vice President Carty McMullen said she takes personal responsibility for supporting employees at the WVU dining halls and assured the board that company leadership was committed to providing quality food for students. She said Sodexo is adding two full-time food safety positions, conducting increased training for staff and checking the temperature of food every half

hour instead of every two hours.

"While it's not an excuse, it is important to acknowledge the significant staffing issues and supply chain shortages that we're facing," McMullen said, adding that these issues are being felt by businesses across the country in the service industry.

Board member Charles Capito asked if the raw chicken incident was an isolated event. McMullen said the rest of the chicken was pulled from the line, and after an investigation they believe it was an isolated incident.

She said the issue was a supply chain problem as fully-cooked chicken is normally ordered, but in this case they received a raw product.

Officials from WVU and Sodexo and members of the board applauded the work of employees in the dining halls and other campus eateries.

"While there are a couple of instances we need to improve upon, we have a lot of employees at the Univer-



PHOTO COURTESY MACKENZIE SHERRY

The raw chicken sandwich served to student.

sity and Sodexo who've gone above and beyond," said Rob Alsop, WVU vice president for Strategic Initiatives.

"Please express the board's appreciation to your employees for showing up every day," said board presi-

dent Tom Jones.

McMullen said that employees care deeply about providing high quality food to students and were devastated by the recent reports. She said Sodexo is allocating a lot of company resources to ensure onsite employees are supported.

She said Sodexo hired a food safety supervisor who started in the beginning of February and is in the process of hiring a dedicated food safety manager. There will also be additional on-site training for employees over the next few months.

"This is important to us. We are focused on it, and we are committed to getting it right," McMullen said.

A third-party independent company completes annual audits of food safety practices and procedures. McMullen said audits will now happen twice a year.

See **Sodexo** page 3

# Five Afghan refugees find new homes in West Virginia

KATELYN ALUISE  
CORRESPONDENT

Six months ago, Benafsha Ayeen was forced to leave her family and home behind when Kabul, Afghanistan, fell to the Taliban. She and 150 other female students were evacuated to the United States by their university.

"We have to leave Afghanistan to have our freedom and the way that we want to live," she said. "It's not the way that it was before, my homeland."

Today she and four other Afghan

refugees — all former students of the Asian University for Women — have transferred to WVU and resettled in Morgantown. They are the only five Afghan refugees who have been resettled in West Virginia.

As the country fell to the Taliban, tens of thousands of Afghan refugees were evacuated to the United States. 14,000 are still on military bases, waiting for their cases to be taken up by overloaded resettlement agencies.

West Virginia received zero refugees in the initial allotment and has only resettled five refugees while surrounding states have taken in

hundreds.

West Virginia has been unable to resettle as many Afghan refugees as nonprofit resettlement organizations are underfunded and understaffed.

Resettlement organizations rely on donations and must meet certain funding and staffing requirements before they can be approved by the U.S. State Department to receive federal funds and begin resettling refugees.

"Everybody knows that the state of West Virginia is in dire need for young bodies to work," said Ibtesam Barazi, president of the West Virginia

Interfaith Refugee Ministry. "There are help wanted signs everywhere for every type of industry, and this is a good workforce for us in West Virginia to use — that will help improve our economy and our diversity."

Barazi said resettlement organizations need funding to furnish apartments, which depends greatly on the size of the family being resettled. Other expenses include picking up families at an airport, getting them accustomed to a new culture, providing English lessons and even getting them work permits.

"Everything is specified in the

State Department's guidelines for what is required for an organization to resettle refugees," Barazi said. "So, quite frankly, it takes a lot of money."

The Department of Health and Human Services decided this past year that West Virginia would receive \$50,000, the minimum for refugee support. For resettlement organizations to receive these funds, they must be approved by the State Department.

See **Refugees** page 4



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FRIDAY 02/25

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SATURDAY 02/26

PARTLY CLOUDY  
HIGH 39° - LOW 27°



SUNDAY 02/27

PARTLY CLOUDY  
HIGH 44° - LOW 24°



CRIME REPORT

Feb. 20  
6:25 a.m. | Closed  
Boreman Hall South  
Fire Alarm.

Feb. 20  
8:42 a.m. | Closed  
University Place North  
Fire Alarm.

Feb. 20  
10:45 a.m. | Unfounded  
Oakland Hall  
Drug Incident.

Feb. 20  
9:39 p.m. | Unfounded  
Brooke Tower  
Drug Incident.

Feb. 21  
8:19 a.m. | Misdemeanor

WVU Motor Pool  
Larceny.

Feb. 21  
10:29 a.m. | Closed  
Seneca Hall  
Talk with Officer.

Feb. 21  
12:16 p.m. | Closed  
Oakland Hall  
Welfare Check.

Feb. 21  
4:08 p.m. | Closed  
Bennett Tower  
Larceny.

Feb. 21  
11:09 p.m. | Closed  
Sigma Nu Fraternity  
Fire Alarm.

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SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENTS

If the University spent as much money as Gee does on his bow ties I'm convinced we'd have more parking

6h • ~1mi 3 comments

30

not feeling like a mountain mama tonight

17h • ~2mi 0 comments

32

motown has sinkholes not potholes

19h • ~3mi 1 comments

64

WVU is a:

- ☐ football school
- ☐ basketball school
- ☒ pothole

20h • <1mi 4 comments

270

Is a solo PRT ride too much to ask for

4h • ~2mi 1 comments

35

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WVU's INDEPENDENT  
STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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# SGA, state lawmakers work on bill to fund college mental health services

**JULES OGDEN**  
BREAKING NEWS EDITOR

Members of the WVU Student Government Association are working with state legislators this month on a bill that would address gaps in funding for college mental health services in West Virginia.

The West Virginia Resilience Act, or House Bill 4678, was introduced on Feb. 15 and currently sits in the House Education Committee. If passed, the bill would increase funding statewide for mental health support.

SGA partnered with delegates Roger Hanshaw, speaker of the house, and Doug Skaff to develop the bipartisan bill.

Logan Riffey, SGA legislative affairs officer and president of WVU Active Minds, said the bill would provide support for increased staffing, peer-support programs and partnerships with other services.

Most student concerns center around issues of funding and a need for additional mental health resources on campus, according to SGA Sen. Sophia Flowers. Though university administrators and faculty care about the wellbeing of students, she said their ability to help is limited by inadequate funding.

Conversations about the University's need for more mental health support began this past spring as SGA received student feedback

during the election season.

SGA initially passed a resolution titled the "Mountaineer Resilience Project," which aimed to increase funding for mental health resources at WVU by requesting CARES Act money from the state. However, after several failed attempts to meet with the governor, Riffey said the initiative was not granted funding and forced SGA to find a different solution.

"By the time [Gov. Jim Justice] announced where the CARES Act money was going, though we certainly do respect his decision about where it went...it forced us to pivot," Riffey said.

Over this past winter break, Carolyn Atkins, a professor at the Eberly College, connected members of SGA with Hanshaw who then suggested drafting a piece of legislation.

HB 4678 would not only benefit WVU, but it would also aid smaller schools with less funding.

"I think it's really important that this bill would help benefit public universities across the state and not just WVU because WVU does get a large chunk of funding," Flowers said. "So we're very, very lucky in that sense and to be able to help some of those smaller schools across the state with issues I know that all if not most college students are facing."

Riffey said schools are able to evaluate and adjust their allotted funding due to the language of the bill's legislative



PHOTO COURTESY WV LEGISLATIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

SGA Senators Azeem Khan, Sophia Flowers, Olivia Dowler, and legislative affairs officer Logan Riffey.

text and proposal.

"Maybe here we're doing better with our collegiate recovery network, but at a smaller school, they might want to focus on that," SGA Sen. and Government Relations Chair Azeem Khan said.

In addition to combatting the increased need for mental health support onset by the pandemic, HB 4678 would provide adequate funding for recovery programs and offer resources to people with substance use disorders.

"We all know so many people who this has impacted, and I know I have classmates who their parents have overdosed and they were raised by their grandparents and dif-

ferent things like that," Khan said. "There are lots of mental health challenges that come from that. And if you think about it, being raised by your grandparents, it's hard to explain to them something like, you know, this girl left me on open on Snapchat, you know, I'm having a really bad week."

The bill also hopes to increase staffing in mental health centers on college campuses statewide and expand the amount of specialty counselors that are available. For example, making sure there are veterans counselors available on campuses where there is a need for that specific type of support.

SGA is hopeful that HB 4678

will be put on the agenda for the House Education Committee so that it can continue to proceed through the legislative process.

"I'm very optimistic that we'll get on the education committee agenda," said Khan. "Until a governor signs any bill in Charleston, it is not wise to assume that anything will happen, so we're ready to work really hard."

Khan, Dowler, Riffey and Flowers said they are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to help draft the legislation alongside Hanshaw and Skaff.

"That's all we can ever ask for, is a chance to be heard," Khan said.

## Sodexo

Continued from page 1

The additional inspections by Sodexo food safety employees will be in addition to regular inspections from the WVU Environmental Health and Safety and the Monongalia County Health Department.

The University plans to launch a dashboard to share the results of dining hall inspections by WVU inspectors. Inspections from the health department are publicly available.

Sodexo executives said they want to hear from students and are starting weekly meet-and-greet events to provide an open forum for people who eat at the dining halls.

"We respect the perspectives of our students in our community and we act swiftly and really expeditiously to address any concerns," Merlyn Bowen, Sodexo vice president for strategic partnerships.

The board approved Friday a \$1.3 million proposal to renovate Summit Cafe, one of three on-campus dining halls, this summer. Renovations at WVU's regional campuses were also approved.

The money for the upgrades will come from the Sodexo Facilities Enhancement Fund.

In March, the board extended Sodexo's contract with the University until 2033. WVU first began outsourcing food services to the company in 2018.

"An army marches on its stomach. And our University thrives on the satisfied stomachs of our students," said WVU President Gordon Gee on Friday.

# WVU revises Title IX training due to factual errors

**JORDAN HOWES**  
STAFF WRITER

West Virginia University paused Title IX training for employees on Friday due to the discovery of "factual errors" in its content.

Training has since resumed after corrections were made to follow federal guidelines outlined by Title IX.

The training had previously insinuated that employees should "conduct their own investigations into inappropriate behavior." Instead, they are instructed to submit a complaint form to the University's Title IX Coordinator, James Goins, as out-

lined in federal regulations.

"In short, West Virginia University strongly believes that harassing and discriminating behavior should be immediately reported and investigated by neutral investigators," the University said in an announcement to employees Tuesday.

The Discrimination & Harassment Prevention & Meridians: Title IX training module was initially sent to university employees on Feb. 3.

Over two weeks later, the University announced that it had discovered errors within the module regarding terminology and sourcing of the data used in the training.

Employees who had

previously completed the module before revisions were made are not required to complete the updated training, according to April Kaull, executive director of communications for University Relations.

One revision concerned a section of the training that prompted employees to give short responses about personal thoughts or experiences in relation to certain questions. The University has since clarified that these responses were intended to remain anonymous and would not result in a report of inappropriate behaviors or actions.

Another revision was made to specify that the data and statistics included

in the module were from a national collection. The original training did not include a source for the data used.

An additional correction was made to distinguish the term "mandatory reporter" from "responsible employee."

According to the Board of Governors Governance Rule 1.6, a responsible employee "in a leadership or supervisory position, or who have significant responsibility for the welfare of students or employees."

This definition includes the following employees: Title IX Coordinator, Deputy Title IX Coordinators, University police officers,

Senior Administrators (in Residence Life, Student Life, and Athletics), University Senior Administrators (including Senior Administrators within each College or School), resident assistants, faculty and athletic team coaches and their staff.

Another error in the training included a link to the "WVU Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy." There is not a policy at WVU by this name which caused confusion among training participants.

The final error that was found in the original employee training involved improper terminology related to "conduct associated with harassment and

discrimination." The original module referred to these behaviors as "illegal" though they may not constitute a crime.

"Although harassment and discrimination, as discussed in the context of this training, are inappropriate and is conduct that is not permitted on our campus, they are not typically crimes without additional facts present, which the original training did not distinguish," the University said.

Additional resources on discrimination and harassment prevention can be at [safety.wvu.edu](http://safety.wvu.edu).



## Refugees

Continued from page 1

Ayeen was resettled by West Virginia Catholic Charities (WVCC) — the only approved resettlement organization in the state.

Renee Corbett, an outreach worker for WVCC, said the federal government gives each Afghan refugee \$1,225 over a 90-day period (roughly \$400 a month). At this time, they are expected to find a job and get proper documents.

The number of refugees West Virginia receives is determined by the number the state is willing to accept. This number also depends on how many organizations in the state, like WVCC, are able to accommodate refugees.

Barazi said that states with larger cities have more public support, making it easier to resettle refugees. In Portland, Oregon, programs like Portland's for Congolese refugees actively encourage refugees to resettle in the state.

"If you look at Washington, D.C., for example, there is a large Afghan community, and they can provide support for these people," she said. "They apparently have the ability to have large donations."

During the Syrian refugee crisis in 2016, the Department of State approved WVIRM as a refugee resettlement program. The local organization joined a network of 30 other resettlement programs established by Episcopal Migration Ministries across the country.

Barazi said the approval was reset a year later by the Trump administration's travel ban.

She said not only does her organization need funding, but there are specific positions it needs to fill, including having a social worker, which they cannot afford. WVIRM is currently trying to regain funds for approval so they can help resettle more refugees in West Virginia.

"Don't forget these people are escaping from war torn areas, and they're running away with their lives," she said.

Ayeen said there are many laws under the Taliban that restrict basic rights, such as freedom of speech, women's education and working outside of home, their ability to enter public without a man present, careers and clothing.

"Everyone can succeed if they try their best. They don't have any limitations," Ayeen said about coming to the U.S. "Back in Afghanistan, we don't



COURTESY PHOTO

WVU students Mahboba Amiri (from left), Mahwara Azada, Zeba Karimi, Benafsha Ayeen and Madina Amanzai.

have that. It is very hard for women to succeed."

She is currently studying economics at WVU and said that she didn't want to leave her family but knew she wouldn't be able to succeed under the oppression of the Taliban.

"I feel that all of my dreams and all of the things that I had on my mind to be successful as a woman and to help others, I didn't feel it [was possible] that way," she said. "So I tried to flee Afghanistan to be safe and to study and reach my goals."

Ayeen's sister and brother-in-law, who worked with Americans as doctors, also fled Afghanistan. They are just two of many refugees that are still waiting in countries outside the U.S. to find resettlement.

Ayeen said that WVCC has made her transition into

American life easier, and she hopes that the rest of her family will be able to join her one day.

"I came here alone, but I am trying, if it is possible, to get them here as well," she said. "I do not feel that they are safe."

## STUDENT HEALTH TRAVEL MEDICINE

### CDC GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

- /// Do not travel internationally unless fully vaccinated.
- /// Check your destination's COVID-19 situation and travel requirements before traveling.
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# CULTURE

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# WVU leaders say Black history is more than just a single month

**LUKE BLAIN**  
STAFF WRITER

Black History Month is a time of the year set aside to honor Black history and its impacts on broader society. According to two WVU staff members, there is still more we could be doing.

Marjorie Fuller, the director of the WVU Center for Black Culture and Research and Sheena Harris, the coordinator for the Africana Studies program, both spoke on the topic.

"What I really believe is that what needs to happen is that Black history be regarded more as an integral part of American history," Fuller said in an interview. "That it be taught in schools as American history."

Harris also spoke on the idea of emphasizing the importance of Black history outside of Black History Month.

"And I think that we should stop placing so many restrictions on Black history and the truth of lived experiences," Harris said in an interview. "I think that if Black history is uncomfortable, that that is something that we as a nation should sit with and really understand why it's uncomfortable as opposed to avoiding it and saying that we should just place it within a box that feels good."

Fuller, as the director of



PHOTO COURTESY WVU

Sheena Harris.

the Center for Black Culture and Research, oversees many events designed to educate people and build communities among Black students at WVU. Some of these are the Black Queer Student Coalition and the Sisterhood Coalition.

"Honoring Black history also requires that we look at the future," Fuller said. "That we build relationships, that we work collaboratively with other offices and with other groups."

Fuller spoke on how society should continue to grow and do more to acknowledge Black history.

"So do we do great things? Yes. I believe that we do," Fuller said. "And do we do more than we used to do? Absolutely. We do. Should we do more? And should we start earlier? Yes, I



PHOTO COURTESY WVU

Marjorie Fuller.

believe we should."

Harris shared the same sentiment.

"It's a month where all these Black things are sort of placed into one month. I think that that honoring and that, um, type of approach is fine. I don't think that it's sustainable," Harris said. "I don't think that we're able to really embody all of the positive things of Black history and even some of the things that we're uncomfortable with about Black history (in one month)."

Both Harris and Fuller emphasized the education system in their perspectives. Fuller spoke on the need for Black history education before high school.

"I have students that come and take classes that I teach that have never been intro-



PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

The WVU Center for Black Culture and Research.

duced to the material that I introduced them to," Fuller said. "But the material that I teach is a big part of our history. So I really feel like you shouldn't have to come to campus and take a course in the Black studies department for that to be your first introduction to that kind of material."

Harris discussed some of the bans on information in various school systems that place Black history under the term "critical race theory."

"The push to not have these ideas of critical thought around race, for whatever reasons, it's not new, as a historian of African-American history," Harris said. "And I don't

think that the approach to critical race theory is different from the approach that the struggle for Black folks to be seen and to be heard as first-class citizens."

Ultimately, both Harris and Fuller agree that there is still progress to be made in terms of the emphasis of Black history in current society.

"And so I think that as a nation, if we can not think about Black history as a month and think of Black history as our history, I think that that moves the month of Black history just into the 21st century of where it can be and what it can be," Harris said.

## Three things to do this weekend in Morgantown

**BY LARA BONATESTA**  
CULTURE EDITOR

As we approach the last weekend in February and cope with the stress of midterms, take some time for yourself this weekend. Whether you spend the time hanging out with friends or get in touch with your artistic side, you can do it all right here in Morgantown.

### 1 Billiards Club

If it has been a while since you've gone out, hit the town this weekend and check out the Metropolitan Billiard Parlor. This spot features pool tables, games, drinks and more.

The Billiards club is located at 371 High Street, below the Metropolitan Theatre.

The Metropolitan Billiard Parlor is open Sunday through Thursday from 5 to 11 p.m. as well as Friday and Saturday from 5 to 12 p.m.

### 2 We Run for Chili

Add some spice to your weekend and celebrate National Chili Day on Thursday Feb. 24, at 5:45 p.m. downtown and attend WE Run! Morgantown's We Run for Chili Event. After the run head to the Art Bar for, you guessed it, chili!

More information is available on Facebook, under the We Run for Chili event page.

### 3 Appreciate the Arts

Head to Evansdale this weekend and visit the Art Museum and the CAC. The Art Museum is currently featuring Exhibits titled, "From the Mountain: Malcolm Davis and the Art of Shino" and "True Colors: Picturing Identity."

Admission to the Art museum is free.

You can also check out the School of Theatre and Dance's newest production "Indecent." This show will run from Friday, Feb. 25 to Sunday, March 6.

More information about "Indecent" is available online on the WVU Events Calendar.

# Vintage Fest to return in the historic district of downtown Morgantown

**AUDREY BURKHARDT**  
STAFF WRITER

Gallery 304, a vintage clothing store in Morgantown, will be hosting its second Vintage Fest in the Hotel Morgan in downtown Morgantown on March 6.

Vintage Fest will feature vendors who specialize in vintage clothing on the first and second floor of Hotel Morgan. The event will last from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. with free admission.

For Nathaniel Hart, the owner of Gallery 304, this is only his second time hosting an event like this.

"I think it was a lot easier this time, and I felt a lot less pressured as having done it

before," Hart explained regarding the process of developing his second event.

Just as the last Vintage Fest had, this year there will be a range of vendors who will be selling more affordable clothing, along with higher end vintage clothing items.

"There's going to be vendors that have more affordable clothes like \$5, \$10 t-shirts. And then there are going to be vendors that have bigger ticket clothing. There's men's clothes, women's clothes, like really any kind of stuff you're looking for," Hart explained.

Hart believes that although there is not a large selection of vintage shops in Morgantown, there is still a high demand for vintage products.

"I think, especially with the college students and everything, I think people have an appreciation and there's a demand for this kind of stuff," he said.

Hart decided to host the event at Hotel Morgan because of the historical aspect.

"I didn't want to have it outside again in March because I thought it would probably be way too cold. So I was looking for a place with enough space to hold vendors and a crowd of people and not be too constricted," he explained. "Especially because it's kind of like a historic hotel. So it kind of fits in with the vintage-y theme of everything."

Because of the constraints of the building, Hart was only

able to allow 20 vendors space in the event.

"There's another place that I looked at that was bigger, but they were booked up. And Hotel Morgan had the perfect amount of space and also probably in the best location," he said.

Due to the agreement between Hart and the Hotel Morgan, local food vendors will not be at this year's Vintage Fest.

This, however, allows Hart to focus more on the clothing vendors. Hart mentioned that this will include most of the vendors that attended last year's fest with the exception of one new one.

"A few of the vendors have actual storefronts, and then

the rest of them sell online, through Instagram or whatever. So it's a little bit of a mix," he said.

Hart hopes that events like this can bring more people to Morgantown. He explained that because the vintage look is getting more attention, it is important to recognize that it is enjoyed by those within the Morgantown community.

"I feel like no one really looks at Morgantown like that, as being super stylish," he explains. "So it's cool to have people from other places come to Morgantown and see that."

To find more information on Vintage Fest, check out the events Instagram account @wvintagefest.



Editor:  
**Luke Morgan**  
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## OPINION

# WVU, the college that makes you pay for being disabled

BY CHRIS PENA

Adult diagnosis is hard, and it is even harder when you are in college. However, this diagnosis means that you can now request accommodations as needed. For many, this is a turn around for grades, social life and a boost in confidence. Unless, that is, you are a student at WVU—even more so if you are autistic.

Earlier this year, I advocated for my own psychological testing and was diagnosed with ADHD. I was able to successfully get the bare minimum accommodations for my diagnosis. The process was deplorable, and they were unwilling to provide specific treatments. Instead, you were generalized and would receive the same accommodations as everyone else. Still, it helped some.

However, when I was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD), I found myself in a downhill spiral. A quick discussion with my caseworker with the Office of Accessibility simply told me: “There wasn’t much other than what they had given



The logo for Mind Fit, a one-on-one tutoring service at WVU.

PHOTO COURTESY WVU

me.”

At this point, I began to realize that WVU did not care about their autistic students. Most of their accommodations are designated for students with ADHD, hearing impairments or visual impairments. The school could do more to help their autistic students adjust to the wave of negative sensory input, prob-

lem-solving difficulties, and socialization issues that often come with college.

By not implementing more programs, WVU continues to postulate the concept that college is made of neurotypical people and neurotypical people only. Worse of all, I found that WVU supports Autism Speaks, an organization bent on finding a “cure”

for autism and advocating for the dependency of people with autism. This group is one of the biggest enemies of self-advocacy for individuals with autism.

I scoured the internet for resources, desperately searching for anything that could help me. A holy grail sat in front of me: Mind Fit. This is a WVU run tutor-

ing service that helps students with ADHD and autism set a schedule, prep for the day, and includes a list of helpful tools—even a sensory room built for calming students. The kicker? The cheapest plan is the limited package (1-2 hours a week), which is 1,500 dollars a semester. Meanwhile, the total package (7-8 hours) is 2,600

dollars. My dreams were crushed. The tools that were so important for the success of many students with autism sat behind a paywall.

Despite WVU being so “informed” about autism, they continue to make students pay for equality and accessibility. The university does not aim to help their disabled students. Instead, WVU aims to drain their bank accounts for a glimmer of hope.

This school needs to become aware. They need to understand the basics behind autism and that it is not ADHD, needing separate accommodations. Even more so, not every ASD student is the same and often requires specific accommodations. Similar to Autism Speaks, WVU enforces the idea of making the student dependent on them for any type of success.

To support the removal of Autism Speaks from WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities and WVU websites, sign this petition.

*Chris Pena is a sophomore forensic science student at WVU.*

# WV lawmakers must protect student journalists' rights

BY DUNCAN SLADE AND TYLER SPENCE

Student media is indispensable to the community it serves, and the rights of student journalists must be protected.

Their work informs students, parents, faculty, alumni and administrators about news and issues that will impact their daily lives at the institution they care about.

As Marshall University searched for a new president this past fall, The Parthenon provided reporting and coverage during the search that no other publication could rival. Student journalists broke down each one of the final five candidates in detail, covering the protests and resolutions from Marshall's Student Government Association as Brad D. Smith was selected to be Marshall's new university president.



PHOTO COURTESY JED SAMMONS

Duncan Slade, editor in chief of The Daily Athenaeum.

Student journalists also hold institutions accountable. In recent weeks, the Daily Athenaeum reported on a student who was served raw chicken from a WVU dining hall and dozens of health code violations at the same facilities. Last week, leadership from WVU's food contractor Sodexo faced tough questions about the incident from the university Board of Gover-

nors who directly cited the work of student journalists. Sodexo executives promised they would improve food safety at WVU dining halls because of reporting from student journalists.

Earlier this semester, the DA also reported on WVU's decision to stop reporting cases of COVID-19 on campus. After the story, administrators changed university



COURTESY PHOTO

Tyler Spence is the executive editor of The Parthenon, the independent student newspaper of Marshall University.

policy and started reporting cases again.

Student journalists are a specialized form of local media that exists to serve a niche audience; however, they are too often relegated to a second class status in the eyes of the law and of public perception.

The rights of student jour-

nalists and their advisors should be protected, and their organizations should be allowed to operate without fear of retaliation and censorship from the schools they serve. Current laws give schools sweeping authority to censor student media in arbitrary and subjective manners. Not only is this a violation of the rights of student journalists, but it is a tremendous disservice to the communities these journalists serve.

SB 216 would create the “Student Journalist Press Freedom Restoration Act” and allow for the censorship of student media only in specific circumstances. Administrators could censor material that is libelous or slanderous, invades privacy, violates state or federal law or would disrupt the orderly operation of the school.

It would put essential guardrails on the ability of administrators to censor stu-

dent publications and protect student media advisors from retaliation if they refuse to censor protected speech.

Over a dozen states have already passed such laws and this proposal is backed by the American Bar Association and a myriad of prominent journalism associations.

Student media is an essential part of any school. It can be a place that informs students, holds administrators accountable and, most importantly, differentiates fact from fiction in a world of social media rumors that spread like wildfire. This important work needs to be protected.

*Tyler Spence is the executive editor of The Parthenon, the independent student newspaper of Marshall University. Duncan Slade is the editor-in-chief of The Daily Athenaeum, the independent student newspaper of West Virginia University.*





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15 Oak seed

16 Juicy

17 Temporary care of infants

19 Stake

20 Modern

21 Deer

23 Cloaks

26 Bottom part of a ship

28 Oolong

31 Scar

32 Deep soup serving bowl

33 Tree

34 Garnished with sliced almond

37 Artery

39 Pinches

40 Central points

42 Ground tillers

45 Lock of hair at front of head

49 Resort hotel

50 Caution

53 Wield

54 Dynamite

55 Morning noise

56 Birthday \_\_\_\_

58 \_\_\_ Gras
- 60 Close to the ground

61 Old

63 People of Ethiopia

69 Usher

70 Dreamers

71 After eight

72 Evils

73 Meeting

74 Satisfaction
- Down**

1 Beginner

2 Airport abbr.

3 Catch

4 Herb

5 Helps around the house

6 Fall mo.

7 Negative

8 Triple

9 Make angry

10 Middle East dweller

11 Cleans up in buildings

12 Enact

13 Grain

18 Distress call

22 Be a threat to

23 Certified public accountant

24 Point

25 School group

26 Hamburger rolls

27 Anger
- 29 Sup

30 Also known as (abbr.)

32 Slant

35 North northwest

36 Pronounce unfit to practice law

38 Lube

40 A piece of paper to fill out

41 Lode yield

42 Pacific Time

43 Licensed practical nurse

44 Hot cereal

45 Further

46 Possessive pronoun

47 Time zone

48 Map legend

51 Oldest

52 Person who,serves food

56 Fizzy drink

57 Respecting

59 Totals

60 Fallen

61 Boxer Muhammad

62 Stiffen

64 \_\_\_ you! (attention getter)

65 Internal Revenue Service

66 Cause of sickness

67 Compass point

68 Visualize

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# SPORTS

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## Pauly's Plates: Caribbean cuisine from men's basketball player Pauly Paulicap

BY ZACH ANDERSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

Forward Pauly Paulicap on the West Virginia men's basketball team is taking the new name, image, and likeness rules to full advantage, opening his own line of Caribbean food that is delivered from his very own kitchen.

With the new NIL rules being announced this season in college athletics, athletes are now able to make money off of their name and likeness, allowing athletes like Paulicap and other Mountaineers to benefit from their Division I stardom and use it to further their brand.

Paulicap has taken the most unique approach to the new rules, delivering his homemade food from his own kitchen in Morgantown, bringing you the meal right to your door. According to Ethan Bock of West Virginia



PHOTO BY GUS SCHLOMER

West Virginia forward Pauly Paulicap (1) dunks against Bellarmine at the WVU Coliseum on Nov. 30, 2021, in Morgantown, W.Va.

Sports Now, Paulicap was timely and the prices were reasonable.

Paulicap advertises his food and publishes his menu weekly on his new Instagram

@chef.pauly. Paulicap posts a menu each week that features new entrée items, a

couple of sides and a dessert.

Paulicap has different sizes for his meals as well, offering a small plate for \$8, a medium plate for \$14 and a large plate for \$17, requiring that orders be over \$10 for delivery to be available.

Some of the items featured on the menu for Feb. 15 includes Curry chicken and shrimp as the entrée, with brown rice, peas and steamed cabbage. All finished off with a dessert of fried oreos and carrot cake.

Paulicap has frequently been mentioned by teammates and head coach Bob Huggins as the team's premier cook, along with guard Taz Sherman also dabbling in the kitchen.

"He's supposed to rival Taz [Sherman] as the best cook on the team," Huggins said. "See that's something that people don't know."

Other athletes on the West Virginia basketball team have also taken advantage of

the NIL rules, with forward Jalen Bridges partnering with three companies in just this season.

Bridges has cashed in with individual NIL deals, working with Doordash and Roger and Mazza's Pepperoni Rolls. A few athletes such as guards Sean McNeil and Taz Sherman also partnered with Bridges for Little General convenience stores.

Forward Isaiah Cottrell was another Mountaineer to get into the fold, making his own NIL agreement with Doordash as well.

Opportunities such as Paulicap's and other athletes on the WVU basketball team, weren't possible before the new rules and now college athletes have a chance to go further than their performance on the court or field. The possibilities for Pauly's Plates are endless, as well as the new chances for all college athletes.

## Comeback falls short as WVU baseball suffers first loss to Coastal Carolina, 9-7

BY ZACH ANDERSON  
SPORTS EDITOR

The West Virginia baseball team finished up the Baseball at the Beach Invitational on Monday, breaking its undefeated start to the season in a loss to the Coastal Carolina Chanticleers, 9-7.

WVU's struggles in the field and consistent hitting from the Chanticleers were the factors in front of the home crowd, with Coastal hitting 13-for-33 (.394 AVG) compared to only 6-for-33 (.182 AVG) hitting from the Mountaineers.

The Chanticleers made quick work of West Virginia's first two batters in the top of the first inning, but Victor Scott II got the first hit for the Mountaineers on a single to left field.

The first runs of the day came off the bat of freshman Grant Hussey, homering to right field for his third home run of the season to elevate West Virginia (3-1) to a 3-0 lead in the top of the first.

A West Virginia error and then a quick hit through the left field gap puts Coastal

Carolina (3-1) on the board with two runs.

Late in the top of the second, West Virginia scored in another run, but three strikeouts in the side from Coastal Carolina pitcher Elliot Carney ended the inning.

After a defensive third inning, the bottom of the fourth saw Coastal get five runners on base, leading to three runs and a one run advantage for the Chanticleers.

Matt McDermott drove two runs in with a single to left field for two RBIs and 1-for-3 hitting on the day.

Following the three-run spurt from Coastal, West Virginia went to the bullpen for pitcher Beau Lowery, replacing starting pitcher Zach Bravo.

Coastal Carolina also pulled out a new arm, putting in relief pitcher Jonathan Blackwell in the fifth.

In the bottom of the fifth, the Chanticleers added to their lead with a two-run homer from Chris Rowan Jr. to extend the lead to three at 7-4, which led to another WVU change on the mound with pitcher Chase Smith coming in for Lowery.

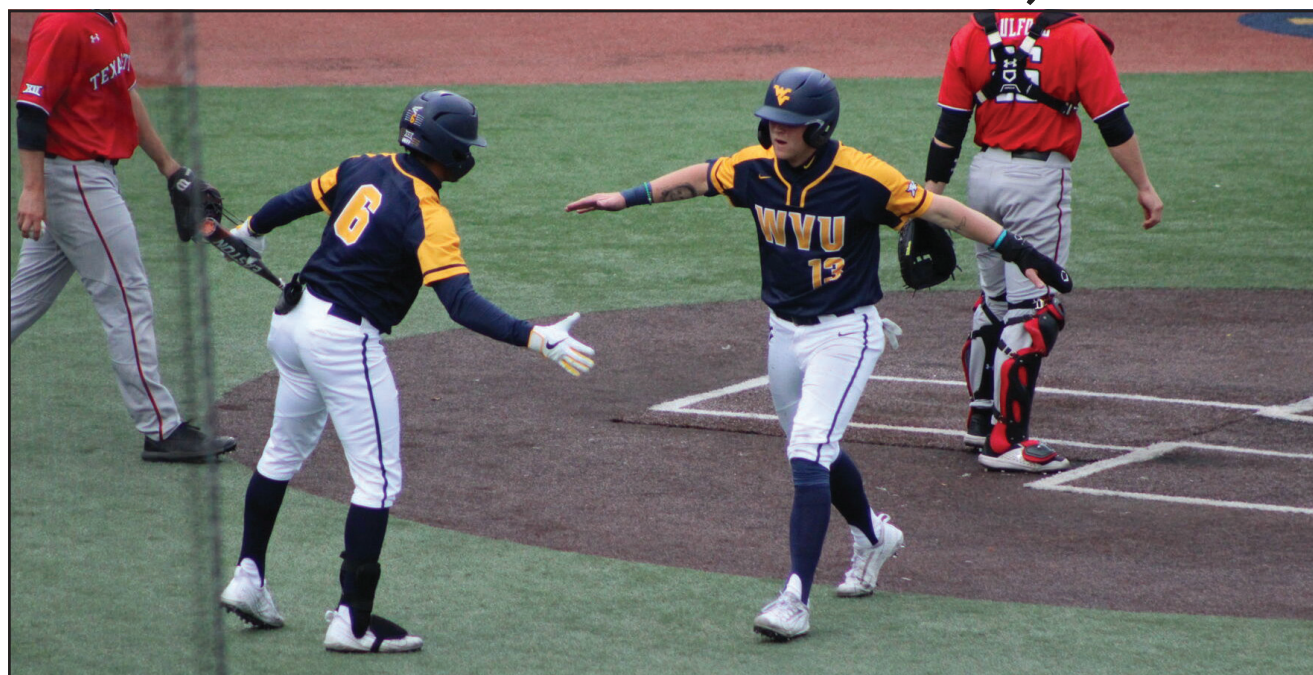


PHOTO BY MICHAEL WHALEN

West Virginia's Victor Scott (6) and Kevin Brophy (13) high-five during a game against Texas Tech on April 17, 2021, in Morgantown.

In the top of the sixth, West Virginia drove in two runs to bring the game within one off a long sacrifice fly by Austin Davis.

In the top of the seventh inning, a West Virginia run tied the game at seven, as closing pitcher Jacob Wat-

ters took the mound in the bottom.

In the bottom of the eighth, Coastal Carolina had a two-run surge from an Austin White single, putting the Chanticleers up 9-7, and giving them the final lead of the contest.

Scott II was West Virginia's most efficient hitter, going 2-for-3 alongside Hussey hitting 1-for-4 with a homerun and three RBIs.

Rowan Jr. was the top hitter for Coastal Carolina, hitting 2-for-3 with three RBIs and one homerun. White

also added in three RBIs on 1-for-4 hitting.

The Mountaineers will begin their next series in Charlotte, N.C., against the Charlotte 49ers. The first game is set to begin on Friday at 4 p.m. and will be streamed on ESPN+.



# Bob Huggins named 2022 Naismith Hall of Fame finalist

BY CAMREN GANDEE  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

WVU men's basketball head coach Bob Huggins was announced as a finalist for the 2022 Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame class on Friday.

Huggins is currently fourth on the all-time coaching wins list, and is third among active head coaches. He is one of four coaches to be nominated this year, along with six players and a referee.

In his storied career Huggins has led his various squads to 25 NCAA Tournament appearances, including nine Sweet Sixteen visits, four Elite Eight appearances, and two trips to the Final Four.

In his 15 year tenure with the Mountaineers Huggins has led the program to a stout record of 324-182. In that time WVU has gone to the Sweet Sixteen five times, and made it as far as the Final Four in 2010.

Huggins led the University of Cincinnati from 1989 to 2005 as well. In that time the Bearcats won eight Confer-



STAFF PHOTO

Head Coach Bob Huggins against Oklahoma at the WVU Coliseum on Jan. 26, 2022 in Morgantown, W. Va.

ence USA regular season titles, and Huggins was named Conference USA Coach of the Year three consecutive seasons (1998-2000).

In 2000 Huggins was also named Sporting News National Coach of the Year, and in 2002 he was honored

as the ESPN.com National Coach of the Year.

The entire Hall of Fame class will officially be announced on April 2, at the NCAA Final Four in New Orleans. The event will start at 12 p.m.

# No. 4 WVU rifle earns NCAA championship bid for 15th straight season

BY JAKE HOWARD  
SPORTS WRITER

The West Virginia Mountaineers rifle team has qualified for the NCAA championships for a 15th straight season.

This is also the 15th straight season making the championships under coach Jon Hammond, who has guided the Mountaineers to six national championships, and three runner-up finishes, fighting for their 20th national championship this season when the championships take place on Mar. 11-12 at the Falcon Rifle Range in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The No. 4 Mountaineers (12-1, 7-1 GARC) came in sixth place out of eight teams in the qualifiers, with a qualifying mark of 9441 which is a combination of a team's qualifying average (4734) and the average of their three highest scores in the regular season, and their qualifying score (4707), which comes from their qualifying match score.

The Mountaineers participated in their NCAA Championships qualifying match at the WVU Shell Building in Morgantown against VMI and North Georgia on Feb. 19, but



PHOTO BY RYLAN NEMESH

Two West Virginia Mountaineers compete in the WVU rifle quad-match on Jan. 30, 2021.

the latter did not qualify. Air Force, Alaska Fairbanks, Kentucky, Murray State, Navy, Ole Miss and TCU join the Mountaineers in qualifying for the NCAA Championships.

Mountaineers head coach Jon Hammond says he's excited to qualify and to play at a good venue.

"We're obviously excited to be going to NCAA's, qualifying is always the number one objective," Hammond said. "We're grateful to Air Force for being able to step in last minute and host and shooting at least air rifle in a bigger arena will give it more of a championship feel from last year."

However, Hammond acknowledges that the team has to do better than they did in the qualifying match to win

the championship.

"We have to be realistic with our expectations, we shot the seventh-highest score on qualifiers and go in there sixth in the rankings," Hammond added. "I'm not sure a team lower than fourth in the ranking has won the championship in recent history. We'll do everything we can to prepare in the coming weeks, but we know there are some really good teams this year, so we have to focus on just doing our best and seeing where it stacks up."

The Mountaineers still have another championship to play in before Mar. 11., as they will compete in the GARC championships in West Point, N.Y. on Monday, Feb. 28

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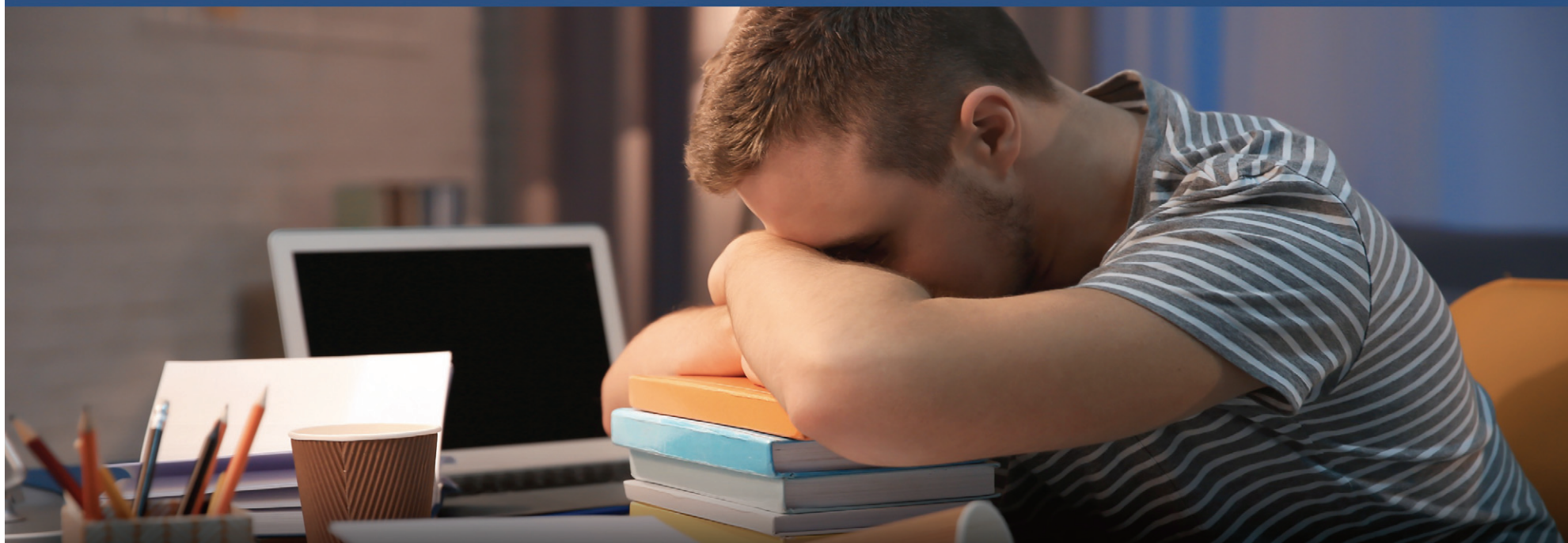


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**Women in Science and Medicine Podcast** - The Women in Science and Medicine podcast features discussions with female scientists within West Virginia University and other institutions. In this series, we'll share the achievements and insights from some of the country's top female scientists and learn from their experiences to understand how they came to be passionate about science and overcame any obstacles in their paths. This podcast is offered by West Virginia University's Office of Research and Graduate Education.



Hosted by Sydney Wentz and Chloe Snodgrass, the "Are You Still Watching?" podcast discusses TV shows, past and present, the impact they've had in pop culture and the mark they've left on our society. New episodes are available every Friday! This podcast is a product of the Daily Athenaeum, West Virginia University's Independent Student Newspaper, and produced by WVU Student Media.



In this 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.



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