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www.alleghenycampus.com

Robertson athletic facilities receive \$1.5 million donation



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

The Robertson Athletic Complex's football facilities are the latest in a series of Allegheny spaces that will see upgrades in the coming years thanks to a major gift from alumni Kevin Baird, '84, and Lisa Fiedor Baird, '84.

See ROBERTSON | page 2

College receives \$150K grant for security measures

By AB SNYDER
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The college is moving to improve students safety on campus, after announcing a \$150,000 grant "geared toward supporting underrepresented populations at Allegheny" in its press release on August 12.

This grant, courtesy of the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency Non-profit Security Grant Program, gives funding to numerous organizations that could be targets for hate crimes. Out of 90 nonprofit

organizations receiving funding from the program, Allegheny is the only college to receive the grant.

Grant Project Director James Basinger, director of Allegheny College's Department of Public Safety, felt that the program was a perfect fit for the school.

"We recruit a very diverse student population as well as faculty and staff," Basinger said.

According to the campus admissions site, the typical first-year class profile alone states that 26% of incoming freshmen belong to a minority group.

See SECURITY | page 3

Meadville to benefit from Resilient Communities program

By ANNA WESTBROOK
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Established in 1788, the city of Meadville has no shortage of old, historic buildings.

But, with climate change driving increased flooding risk and a greater number of dangerously

hot days each year, many of these buildings are not equipped to handle the mounting pressures of extreme weather.

The city of Meadville is taking steps to strengthen the region's resiliency. Most recently, this has taken the form of a partnership with Green Building Alliance as part of their Resilient Communi-

ties program.

"This program will help us achieve goals set in our Climate Action Plan for a safer, healthier, more resilient Meadville," said City Councilmember Autumn Vogel, '16, in GBA's press release announcing the partnership. "Through this partnership, we'll get much needed support to

make improvements to our aging building stock, making the people of Meadville safer and more comfortable in their homes and buildings, while helping residents, community partners, and local businesses save money. It's a win-win-win. We're eager to get started and grateful for the opportunity."

The three-year program will

provide Meadville with assistance to "reduce energy demand, cut utility costs, and increase energy efficiency and resilience for the municipal buildings, commercial facilities, and nonprofit and educational institutions" in the region, according to GBA's press release.

See RESILIENT | page 2

Letter from the Editors: The Campus' mission

By STAFF
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Welcome new and returning students, faculty and staff, Meadville residents and Allegheny alumni to the 2024-25 school year and a new year of "The Campus." We're excited to be back reporting for the Allegheny community, making this paper the best it can be.

To start the year off right, we'd like to explain how we operate and why. We'd also like to address the major changes made to this year's paper and how you can make your voice heard as a writer or simply as a reader. Let's dive in.

To start with the obvious: the paper is now six pages instead of eight. This newspaper has taken many different forms over its nearly 150-year tenure, and this year is no exception to that change. You will notice that we no longer have a Sports section and that the Science/International section will be folded into the Features section. This is due to several reasons, one being that this year's current staff is smaller than last year's. Additionally, several skilled seniors who were

heavily involved with the paper graduated. Included in that list was our Sports Editor — and sole sports writer — Kyle Chandler, '24.

We point this out to illustrate the fact that in order to showcase the skills of our staff, we need a smaller paper, at least for now. It's not to say that the paper will never return to eight pages, or that sports coverage won't make its way into this year's paper — in fact, we intend to include sports coverage when we can, even if the format of that coverage looks different. If you'd like to see more extensive coverage, we encourage you to be a part of the work you want to see.

This paper is, and has always been, a reflection of the students who run it. We are busy, like you. We have varied interests, priorities and specializations within the staff. Six pages is what will best suit this staff's abilities and deliver the best possible content to our audience at the same rate we have in the past.

Regardless of the shape this paper takes, our mission remains steadfast: To inform the Allegh-

eny community, honestly and accurately. There is no angle to truthful reporting. Since it is not possible to cover every event and development on this campus, we do have to make decisions about which stories are top priorities or which stories will impact the greatest number of readers. There is absolutely journalistic discretion in what we choose to cover, though we aim to be considerate in which stories we pursue.

While some readers may take issue with a lack of coverage, others may take issue with too much coverage. Let us be clear in saying that what happens at public events is inherently public, and we as an organization are interested in covering any and all events that affect the campus community and beyond. Once again, there is no angle to truthful reporting. Your actions as leaders on this campus reflect themselves, and our choices will reflect on us.

We don't hold ourselves above criticism, however. Reporting the news will always come with accountability, just as any opinion column worth writing ought to have a counterargument. We do

our best to avoid implicit biases and conflicts of interest by working as a team of reporters as well as a team of editors, making sure that our opinions do not interfere with reporting the facts of a story. Our Code of Ethics can be found posted on our newsroom door, and we welcome open dialogue about journalistic integrity.

All this being said, there are productive ways to have your voice heard by us at The Campus. Our contributing writers' meetings will continue to take place in the Henderson Campus Center room 303 at 8 p.m. on Monday nights. Come pitch your story ideas or take a story of your own. No experience is necessary. If you've been interested in journalism or writing before, it doesn't hurt to try.

You can email us at newspaper@allegheny.edu or reach out to Editor-in-Chief Sam Heilmann, '26, directly at heilmann01@allegheny.edu with concerns or suggestions. If you'd like to respond to something written in a recent edition, the information for our letter-to-the-editor process can be found at our website,

alleghenycampus.com.

We also plan on hosting another open house this year where you can drop in to look behind the scenes at the paper coming together. Or, stop by a listening session we plan to host, where you can give us feedback, suggestions, complaints — you name it. We also plan to regularly post on our social media with tips for how to read a newspaper, which is a skill that is more important than ever. Stay tuned to our Instagram page — @ac_campus — and print editions for forthcoming details on all these projects and events.

Above all other goals, we aim to tell the truth. Know, though, that we do not operate for or against any institution, and that we serve our readers first and foremost. We are here to share your stories and to keep you informed, plain and simple.

Thank you for your readership and your continued support of this paper. We wouldn't be who we are without our audience, without Allegheny, without you.

In this week's Campus...

SPECIALIZING IN FUN

Opinion Editor Emma Conti-Windle, '27, explains why she thinks everyone should work with children at least once, no matter their career.

Page 4

WEEK OF WELCOME

This year's Week of Welcome saw one of the biggest turnouts to Gator Activities Programming's back-to-school bingo, late night breakfast and free money game show.

Page 6

COMEDY CORNER

Staff Writer Joseph Klepeis, '26, writes about kangaroos and hypocrisy within the government. Laughs ensue.

Page 6

FRIDAY



H: 87° L: 69°
Rain: 32%
Sunrise: 6:45 a.m.
Sunset: 7:56 p.m.

SATURDAY



H: 76° L: 61°
Rain: 76%
Sunrise: 6:46 a.m.
Sunset: 7:54 p.m.

SUNDAY



H: 80° L: 55°
Rain: 10%
Sunrise: 6:47 a.m.
Sunset: 7:53 p.m.

ROBERTSON from page 1

By SAM HEILMANN
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Allegheny's athletic facilities are getting another upgrade thanks to a \$1.5 million donation from alumni. The gift was announced by the college on July 23 and the update is set to be completed by 2025.

The gift comes from Kevin Baird, '84, and Lisa Fiedor Baird, '84. Vice President for Institutional Advancement Matthew Stinson explained that the Bairds have an extensive history when it comes to donating to the college.

"The gift itself has been a long-term function of their relationship with the college," Stinson said.

The donation comes after a series of major gifts last academic year, including a combined \$21 million from Allegheny College trustee emerita Patricia Bush Tippie, '56, and an anonymous donor for the renovation of Brooks Hall and Reis Hall. The college also announced a \$14 million gift from three multi-generational alumni families for the renovation of Quigley Hall as well as an endowed fund for faculty-led undergraduate research.

President Ron Cole, '87, explained that this series of major donations — totaling around \$80 million over the last two years — happens when one donation inspires another, creating a domino effect.

"Allegheny College is fortunate to have alumni and friends of the college willing to invest in our future financially," Cole said.

"Within that, we're very fortunate to have donors willing to take that first step — to be among the first, the lead donors to invest in these priorities. What that has done has inspired other donors."

Stinson explained that all of these recent gifts are part of the Strategic Pathway established by Cole and that each of the gifts fulfill a need set forth by the college.

"(Alumni) are wanting to help in ways that we're asking for help for — that's very different than donors directing what the college should be doing," Stinson said. "We're not responding to donors based on their wishes; it's more of a matchmaking process."

The upgrades to the Robertson Athletic Complex fall under Goal 2 of the Strategic Pathway, which aims to create a "vibrant and inclusive campus" where "an engaged and fun experience and inclusive culture will be hallmarks of Allegheny for students, faculty, and staff," according to the Office of the President's website.

"One way that we can bring about a more vibrant and inclusive campus is addressing some of the facility needs in athletics," said Bill Ross, director of athletics and recreation.

Ross explained that the current football facilities at Robertson were built in the 1940s, and that improving the space opens the door to improvements in other athletic facilities.

The renovations will include new coach's offices and locker rooms for the football team along with a meeting room for alumni and prospective students, according to Allegheny's announcement.



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

As part of the recent major donation to the Robertson Athletic Complex, the football team's locker room will be renovated. The current facilities at Robertson were built in the 1940s, according to Director of Athletics and Recreation Bill Ross.

Academic improvements

Stinson explained that, while the football program is the recipient of the latest major gift, many sports have seen improvements over the past few years, or will see improvements in the near future, with more donations to be announced this fall.

The David V. Wise Center added the Norm A. Sundstrom Walk of Fame to its lobby last year, highlighting the accomplishments of Allegheny athletes through the decades. The women's basketball locker room, men's and women's tennis facilities and baseball facilities have also undergone improvements thanks to alumni donations.

"This is a continuation of investments that have been taking place, almost every sports program — men and women — have

seen generous donations and facility upgrades at no cost to our students; these are alumni-driven and alumni-funded," Stinson said.

He added that, while the pace of major gifts is unique to Cole's tenure, Allegheny has a long history of positive relationships with alumni.

"Allegheny alumni, family, friends have a very long philanthropic history of supporting institutions," Stinson said. "I truly believe it's more than a marketing slogan — this is a college that changes lives, and our alumni go off into the world and they're extremely successful, and they don't forget where they came from or the transformational experiences that they had."

RESILIENT from page 1

During the program's tenure, GBA also plans to facilitate the growth of quality jobs in fields that support resiliency energy initiatives, reduce operational costs for local businesses and institutions and open doors to new financial resources by providing grant writing assistance to pursue community resilience and energy-efficiency funding opportunities.

Specializing in sustainable building design, Pittsburgh-based GBA already has several regional success stories.

"The Resilient Communities program builds on GBA's successful work in Erie, which has logged a shared utility savings of over \$17 million across 20 public-private partners since partnering with GBA," according to the press release.

GBA will partner with both Meadville and the city of Reading in the coming years in separate editions of the Resilient Communities program. Both programs are funded by The Metropolitan Edison/Pennsylvania Electric Company Sustainable Energy Fund, a pool of money designed to advance the development of sustainable and renewable energy programs and clean air technology on a regional and statewide basis, according to the Berks County Community Foundation website.

GBA was awarded funding from the Sustainable Energy Fund prior to deciding which two locations to partner with. When GBA contacted Meadville to gauge the city's interest in participating, Meadville City Council jumped at the opportunity.

"Meadville was in the running, and we were very motivated to make it happen, mainly because we did see that this was a way to really bring capacity to Meadville to accomplish some of the goals set in our Climate Action Plan," Vogel said. "So, we acted with some expediency. I brought it before council and we prepared an MOU (memorandum of understanding) and entered into the MOU pretty quickly to kind of demonstrate our enthusiasm."

Just a few weeks later, GBA selected Meadville.

Vogel said the opportunity "was not a hard sell" among councilmembers, given that the program was presented as a way to achieve some of Meadville's Climate Action Plan goals, which had already been discussed "ad nauseam" before the plan's adoption in 2022. Plus, Vogel said, the Resilient Communities program will cost the city nothing.

Assistant Professor of Environmental Science and Sustainability Matthew Bethurem, who also serves on the Meadville Environmental Advisory Committee, believes the Resilient Communities program will benefit Meadville by lessening vulnerabilities to climate disasters for both residents and city infrastructure.

Bethurem says climate change in Meadville manifests primarily as extreme heat events and flooding — both of which the area has already begun to experience with increasing frequency.

Situated directly on French Creek, some parts of the city — like the 5th Ward — are located in the creek's flood plain. Historical precipitation patterns in the area involved "nice, steady, gentle" rainfall that lasted the day and was absorbed into the creek and land, Bethurem explained. But now, it is increasingly common to get rainfall that occurs in intense bursts over short periods of time, overwhelming the creek's shores.

"That exacerbates these flooding issues that Meadville has had for a long time already," Bethurem said. "And, of course, when you get that kind of rainfall, it can increase erosion, it can cause problems for infrastructure and things like that. But the big thing by having intense flood situations [is that] you got people's homes and businesses that are going to be directly impacted."

In recent years, Meadville has also experienced an increasing number of days that are 90 degrees or hotter. With many buildings not built to protect against that type of



JOSEPH KLEPEIS/THE CAMPUS

The Meadville City Council recently agreed to enter into a partnership with Green Building Alliance to participate in GBA's Resilient Communities Program. During the three-year program, GBA will assist Meadville in becoming more resilient to climate disasters.

heat, an ever-growing number of residents will need to be concerned about heat-related illnesses, like heat exhaustion and heat stroke, Bethurem said.

GBA can help reduce these dangers by updating existing infrastructure to be more resilient to climate change, implementing new mitigation measures and decreasing Meadville's overall greenhouse gas emissions, Bethurem said.

So far, GBA has held one listening session with the Meadville Area Collaborative, consisting of officials from Allegheny College, Meadville Medical Center, the City of Meadville, the school district and nonprofit community partners. Many of the concerns raised during the meeting were related to organizations "operating out of buildings that weren't built for what they're being used for now," according to Vogel.

"We heard from Women's Services, who operates a shelter out of what used to be a home," Vogel said. "That is a different use of that building that requires different kinds of energy usage and different, kind of, constraints on the building."

Vogel said that with more efficient buildings, nonprofits like Women's Services and

other organizations could save money on energy costs and instead use their resources in other ways that benefit the community.

Future listening sessions will aim to bring in more organizations that could benefit from the Resilient Communities program so that GBA can get a holistic understanding of stakeholder experiences, according to Vogel.

Using the information gathered in several listening sessions and working alongside a future steering team, GBA will work to ensure that the Resilient Communities program is tailored to meet Meadville's unique needs. GBA will also hire a Meadville resident full-time to coordinate the program at the local level.

Vogel says the best way for the public to get involved with the program is to attend the Environmental Advisory Committee public meetings, which take place on the third Thursday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the City Building.

"We're excited about the capacity this brings to Meadville to be able to curb some of our greenhouse gas emission, but also to save money for organizations and businesses that can certainly spend it in other places," Vogel said. "We're eager for this."

SECURITY from page 1

Basinger also stated in the press release that the department of Public Safety regularly looks for grants and opportunities to improve the security of campus.

With this particular grant from the PCCD, the grant money will be used to install more security cameras and door access units across campus, with the main focus on places of worship. During the summer, additional security cameras were installed outside of the Jewish Community Center, located at the corner of Park Avenue and Allegheny Street, and the Prayer and Meditation House. A new security door was also installed at Ford Chapel.

With the grant funding being put toward new safety features on campus, the hope is to improve on a secure environment for all students. While security cameras and all access doors do not prevent all crimes, safety cameras alone have been shown to be a crime deterrent.

A New York Times article on security camera systems cites a study led by a team of researchers at City University of New York, Northeastern University and Cambridge University of a 40-year systemic review of the effects of closed-circuit television networks on crime trends in countries like Britain and South Korea, where such systems are prevalent. The study also concluded that cameras were a more effective deterrent for burglaries and theft than they were for violent crimes.

Basinger believes the new safety additions, particularly the security cameras, are a much needed feature on campus. When he first arrived in 2020, there were only nine cameras in one parking lot, said Basinger. After recommendations from a security

consultant who was brought onto campus, the decision was made to amp up security everywhere.

Basinger said campus officials were initially worried there would be an uprising from students unhappy with the installation of cameras out of fear of invasion of privacy. However, Public Safety is very cautious with the placement of cameras, for instance facing away from residence halls as to only monitor the entrances and not inside of them, said Basinger.

The cameras are also passively monitored, Basinger said, with most camera footage being closely reviewed as to easily aid in solving incident reports regarding events such as theft or hit and runs.

"We've gone full circle from students saying, 'We don't want cameras,' to, at times, asking 'Why aren't there cameras there?'" he said.

The main goal overall is to create a campus where students feel safe with all the resources and security features at hand. News of the grant comes almost a year after the Light Walk hosted by Allegheny Student Government and the Department of Public Safety with the goal of talking safety and identifying areas of the college campus that needed to improve lighting and visibility at night. The walk itself took place one month after a Sept. 21 sexual assault, which was reported to the Meadville Police Department as having taken place in a residential building on campus.

Campus officials are continuing to take steps to ensure the additional safety features make for a secure and safe living environment on campus for all students.

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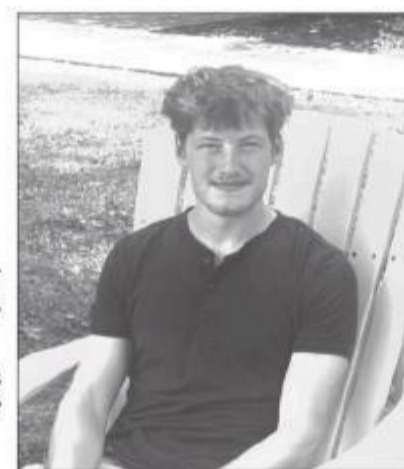
Ask Allegheny

What's one cool thing you did this summer?



Left: Celia Cocca, '25

"I was at FIU (Florida International University) in Miami and I was doing research there and I got to ride a helicopter."



Right: Zachary Wyse, '25

"I did on-campus research."



Left: Marrin Crist, '25

"I worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection doing stuff for their clean water program."

CRIME BLOTTER

Editor's Note: The weekly Crime Blotter is compiled using the Daily Crime Log available on the Office of Public Safety's web page. Crimes reported may still be under investigation. Crimes listed below are collected the Wednesday before publication.

June 5, 2024
Theft
On Campus
Cleared

August 9, 2024
Criminal Mischief
Robertson
Closed

August 25, 2024
Public Drunkenness
Off Campus
Arrested by MCPD

August 27, 2024
Loitering
On Campus
Active Investigation

THE CAMPUS

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Specializing in fun: three reasons to work with children at least once, no matter your career

By **EMMA CONTI-WINDLE**
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I have always counted myself as someone who isn't great with kids. I can hold a baby or compliment my cousin's three-year-old on his shirt while his mom grabs his snacks. But when thinking of career paths or even considering volunteer opportunities, childcare has never come to mind as a fully feasible option. Spontaneous crying and snot makes me nervous and knowing all the words to every Disney princess song has not proven to be as effective a soothing strategy as it was in 2010 when I was feeling particularly weepy.

And so, when the search for a summer job got desperate enough for me to accept a position as a "Recreation Specialist" for the Downtown YMCA in Erie, I relied heavily on the word "recreation" as a synonym to the word "fun" which, in my mind absolved me of any true child care. I gathered from the description and the interview that I would be playing outdoor games with kids all day. I would not be wiping tears or calling parents: I was simply a "fun specialist."

It turns out that, at the time, I was really only specializing in delusion.

Some background: The YMCA Summer Parks Program is a nine-week day camp that is free to any child between the ages of 6 and 17. The program takes place at various parks across the city, each with two

counselors equipped with a ball bag, cooler, water jug, bottle of hand soap, first aid kit, a bin full of coloring books and board games and a pop-up tent in case of rain. I would spend most of my time at McKinley Park, which was not located in the safest area of the city. A state-funded lunch is served every day at 11:30 a.m. followed by



The kids brought me back to the days of writing stories with markers on printer paper so that I could read them to my stuffed animals."

—EMMA CONTI-WINDLE
Class of 2027

an afternoon snack.

When fully functioning, the program spans nine parks across the city, but due to staff shortages, this summer only saw five open. The counselor or "fun specialist" job that I had just taken had an almost 100% turnover rate.

That summer, we were tasked with wrangling up to 26 kids at a time in a park, all various ages, with various necessary accommodations. We dealt with angry parents, people on drugs sleeping at our picnic tables in the middle of the day and fights between children on a daily basis. We were launched out of our comfort zones and driven out of our minds.

But although the day-to-day

function of the camp brought challenges through shards of broken glass bottles on the basketball court, gleams of light shined through.

For two months, we taught the kids to play tennis and pickleball, encouraged them to eat the suspicious cherry tomatoes that were in their state lunches, and listened to them talk about how excited they were for their mother to have their baby brother at the end of the summer. We danced to their favorite songs, had our own version of the Olympics and went on nature walks each morning to get our wiggles out.

It was the hardest and the best summer of my life.

Reason 1: Talking to them is simple, but listening to them makes you think.

As I've gotten older, I've learned the value of optics in every aspect of my life. "What do I look like to friends, peers, family and authorities in relation to what they expect from me? How can my actions be a reflection of the person that I believe others want me to be?" Those questions get more complicated and ridiculous as they pile onto one another.

But the kids didn't ask those.

They asked, "Why are you the way you are?" and not, "Why aren't you like us?" They wonder. And they voice their innermost thoughts, however blunt they may be. But they aren't hateful, and they accept the answers. They haven't yet been shown the importance of

optics, but instead, place importance on who can throw a Nerf football the farthest, or ask them what they ate for dinner last night, or better yet, who listens to their response.

Responses to questions like that opened my mind to the truth about the lives that most of the kids were living, and suddenly, the hours of 10-4 at McKinley Park became much more important than band-aids, bracelets and basketballs.

Reason 2: Children are great at moving forward.

At McKinley Park, any one problem, argument or scrape on the knee couldn't get more than five minutes of attention or tears. The kids didn't want to cry. They wanted to keep playing, keep laughing, keep going. They didn't let little setbacks stop them from achieving their goal for the day, which was often to simply outplay one another before snack time. They didn't worry, at least about the small things. Some actually seemed to have way bigger things to worry about. But on a day that the sun was shining, colored pencils were sharpened, and kick balls were inflated, worrying seemed pointless.

Reason 3: Children jog our memory.

This summer camp was not a sports or science camp. There were no academic skills to be taught or learned, no set plan for the day. It was counselors, kids, crayons and a ball bag against the clock. And with mostly young children, no

one was self-entertaining. And so we had to make our own fun, a skill that I have found becomes weaker as we age.

The kids didn't have a reason to draw rainbows on the pavement with chalk even when the forecast called for rain. There weren't medals for three hours spent playing four square or tennis by house rules. I counted a day as a success when everyone was fed and laughing and it took me a second to adjust to those being the highest priorities. No grades, no quotas, no stakes. They just did things to do them.

I forgot what it was like to live with such a mindset, but the kids brought me back to the days of writing stories with markers on printer paper so that I could read them to my stuffed animals. I was reunited with the little girl who wore everything in her closet that looked cute on a given day regardless of if it matched.

Funnily enough, most of my hours at McKinley Park were spent forgetting. I forgot to worry about things I couldn't control, admittedly one of my favorite pastimes. Instead, I remembered that poorly dressed little author and realized how much I missed her.

To the kids at McKinley Park, thank you for waking me up. Thank you for showing me fun. With you, doing nothing taught me everything. I honestly think that that might be what the best fun in life is, when nothing becomes everything.

Just look away

Conservative lawmakers should take their own advice

By **SAM HEILMANN**
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I'm pissed off. If you've been keeping up with the news lately — which, props to you if you can stomach it — you know that this was quite an eventful summer for American politics. President Biden dropped out of the presidential race to be replaced current Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris — both of whom have made history by doing so. There is, essentially, no precedent for an incumbent dropping out of the presidential race so far along. Although it has been done before, it was not done by a candidate in his 80s, and it goes without saying, I think, that those previous examples had nothing on the viciousness and all-around mess that comes with opposing a Donald Trump presidential ticket.



It's one thing to force your narrow idea of faith and conservatism into our faces. It's another to pretend like it's easy to look away."

—SAM HEILMANN
Class of 2026

Amidst that chaos was an assassination attempt on the former President's life which, in the era of the 24/7 news cycle, was old news in about a week. We live in a time where all news — the good, the bad and the beyond-ugly — is often treated with the same weight.

If you're scrolling through a social media page that, say, knows you read the news, you'll have a great time toggling between anxiety, grief, hope, shock, guilt, anger, joy and confusion. It's everything, all the time, forever. With no start or end, and with every post following essentially the same format, things start to blur until the good news is no longer that uplifting and the bad news is no longer all that shocking.

Long story short, it's easy for wild stories to slip through the cracks.

One of these stories started in Louisiana in June of this year,

though surely Republican Governor Jeff Landry had been stewing on this lawsuit-bait for a while beforehand.

Landry signed into law a bill that will mandate all K-12 schools in Louisiana to display the Ten Commandments in every classroom and in a "large, easily readable font" by 2025, according to The Hill. Operating under the idea that the Ten Commandments is a "historical document" that will "remind students of the foundations of American and Louisiana law," according to First Liberty Institute counsel Matt Krause, every student in the state will be shown the guidelines of a religion they may or may not follow. Nevermind the fact that, if they had looked at just one more historical document, they would see the contradiction in allowing church and state to mix in this way.

I heard of this story first through social media, which, thanks again to the almighty algorithm, was buried in a slew of other horrifying and tragic events and laws that, ultimately, made this feel small. Yeah, of course this would happen. Could I even be surprised by this?

But then, this month, Landry opened his mouth yet again. Now,

he's not just misguided, he's a blatant hypocrite, and for that, I'm more annoyed. It's one thing to force your narrow idea of faith and conservatism into our faces. It's another to pretend like it's easy to look away.

At a press conference earlier this month, Landry advised parents who were upset with the displayed Commandments to simply tell their children "not to look at them," according to The Hill. "Really and truly, I don't see what the whole big fuss is about," he added.

I'll give you a second to spot the irony here, because clearly something isn't clicking in this governor's head.

Did you catch it?

At the time of writing, there are 642 anti-trans bills circulating in various states of approval throughout the U.S. at the state and federal levels, according to translegislation.com. Forty-five have been passed so far this year, primarily affecting healthcare and education, banning things like diversity, equity and inclusion offices and requiring patients to reach a certain age before they have access to gender-affirming health care.

Also at the time of writing, there are 14 states that have made

abortion illegal, including Louisiana. More states than not have not protected the right to an abortion or have placed strict — or intentionally vague — limits on accessing an abortion.

How dare an elected official not see or acknowledge the irony and the hypocrisy of what he is saying? In a state that has banned abortion and has, like many states, jeopardized the safety of its trans and queer citizens — particularly minors — it's important to ask: Who gets to "look away"?

You can't look away from your lack of adequate and equitable health care. You can't look away from a school that won't recognize your chosen name but will, in following the law, display the rules of a religion you don't participate in, loudly and proudly.

If it's so easy to "look away," so simple to not make a "fuss" about, then why on your God's green earth would someone's genitalia matter to you? Someone's gender identity and bodily autonomy are something that Landry ought to look away from. With no effect on him or his fellow conservatives, they should consider taking his advice.

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You can also email newspaper@allegheny.edu for more information

Comedy Corner: kangaroos, Starbucks and basketball

By **JOSEPH KLEPEIS**
Staff Writer
klepeis01@allegheny.edu

UPI reported on Aug. 19 that a kangaroo on the loose in Verdunville, West Virginia was causing a traffic jam.

The real question is what DMV allowed a kangaroo to get a license.

Thomson, Georgia Mayor Benjamin Cary Cranford was indicted on charges that he left a bottle of gin in a ditch for a state prison work crew.

"Of all the gin joints in all the towns in all the world," said Cary Cranford. "The police found mine."

CNN reported on Aug. 20 about how the world's tallest bridge changed the map of Europe.

How did it change the map? They had to add the bridge to it.

The Democratic National Convention adopted a platform that echoes Biden, according to ABC News on Aug. 19.

"It was really quite

strange," said a Democratic delegate. "If you stood near the stage you could hear the faintest message on repeat, 'Biden, Biden, Biden', just bouncing around the building."

NBC News reported on Aug. 20 that newly appointed Starbucks CEO Brian Niccol will commute from Newport Beach, California to Seattle, Washington instead of relocating.

Niccol will utilize a corporate jet, as he is required to work out of the Seattle office three days a week.

Glad to hear that Niccol is doing his part to fight climate change.

Financial Times reported on Aug. 21 that TD Bank has set aside \$2.6 billion as it prepares for penalties from the U.S. government as a result of an investigation in an anti-money-laundering program.

Thank goodness for those deficiencies in the anti-money laundering program so they could afford such hefty fines.

A postcard originally sent in 1903 has finally been delivered to its intended recipient in Swansea, Wales, according to the BBC on Aug. 21.

Take this as a reminder that as bad as the USPS can be at times, at least it's not The Royal Mail.

A U.S. government report has determined "with moderate confidence" that there is a link between higher levels of fluoride exposure and lower IQ in kids, according to AP on Aug. 21.

Prepare yourselves for your uncle to rant and rave about this on Thanksgiving.

USA Today reported on Aug. 22 that federal agents in Australia arrested an airline passenger who opened a plane's emergency exit door, walked along a wing, and climbed down an engine to the tarmac.

The aircraft was parked at the time of the incident.

"It was terrifying. He kept appearing and disappearing on the wing," said a fellow passenger who had a

window seat. "I opened my window at one point and I was face to face with the guy. I couldn't hold it in. I yelled 'there's a man on the wing' and alerted the flight crew immediately."

Official statistics reveal fewer people are moving to the U.K. to work in the NHS, according to the BBC on Aug. 22.

It's almost as if restrictions placed on foreign workers are stopping them from working.

A rumor has been circulating that Robert F. Kennedy Jr. could be Donald Trump's Secretary of Health.

There would be nothing better than an anti-vaccine advocate running the Department of Health.

U.S. regulators will not be able to finalize capital hikes before the November presidential election, according to Reuters on Aug. 22.

"We all wanted to get these hikes set in stone before November," said a regulator. "Summer is nearly over and we have hikes

planned in Acadia and Yellowstone that may have to be postponed until next year now. Some of us bought new hiking staffs that we really wanted to use."

Sports Illustrated reported on Aug. 21 that former NBA player Rasheed Wallace argued on his YouTube channel that Michael Jordan was more of a threat during his time with the Washington Wizards rather than with the Chicago Bulls where he won six NBA championships.

I believe we have reached the pinnacle of basketball debates. This is it. The worst take ever has finally been made. It's time to pack it all

up and go home.

Hunter Biden's lawyers claim prosecution is trying to 'slime him' in tax trial, according to The Independent on Aug. 22.

"They keep scheduling meetings in Burbank, California," said one of Biden's lawyers. "I swear one day I even saw a big bucket of green slime in the rafters above one of our conference rooms."

A DUI checkpoint was scheduled in Greene County for last week in August.

"Looks like I'm in the clear this week then," said a local drunk man. "They didn't catch me last week so I must have missed them."



Prepare yourselves for your uncle to rant and rave about this on Thanksgiving."

—JOSEPH KLEPEIS
Class of 2026

Week Of Welcome festivities



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

Kona Ice parks outside of Alden Hall to provide free snowcones for all students during Gator Night on Saturday, Aug. 24.



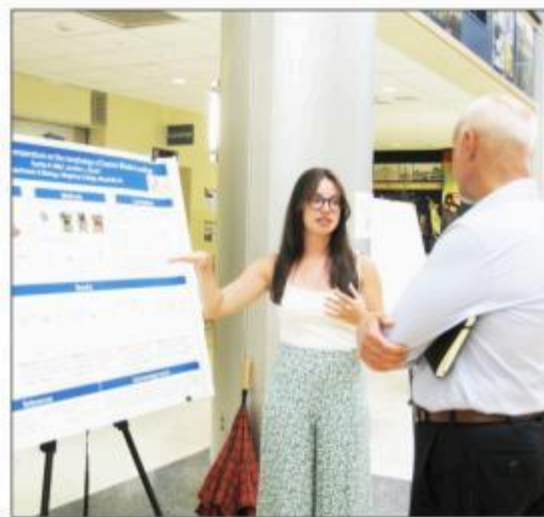
SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

Syd Hammerman, '25, president of Gator Activities Programming, reads out a winning bingo card. Students competed for prizes ranging from school supplies to a TV.



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

The popular customizable signs returned as part of the Gator Night event on Saturday, Aug. 24. Lines extended down the Gator Quad.



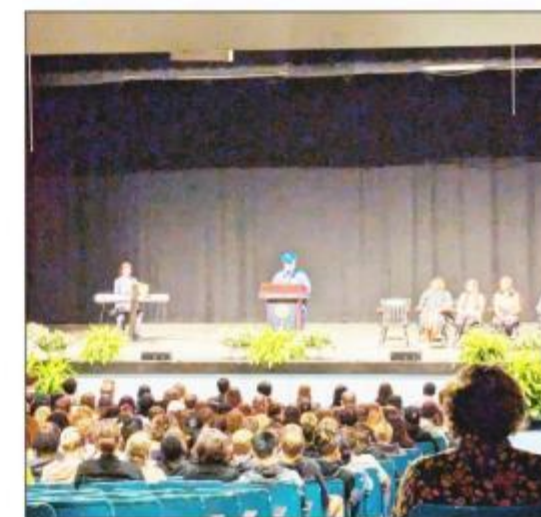
ANNA WESTBROOK/THE CAMPUS

Sophia Mita, '25, discusses her research with President Ron Cole, '87, at URSCA's annual poster session event.



ANNA WESTBROOK/THE CAMPUS

URSCA's annual Celebration of Summer Research and Scholarship Poster Session Program occurred on Monday, Aug. 26.

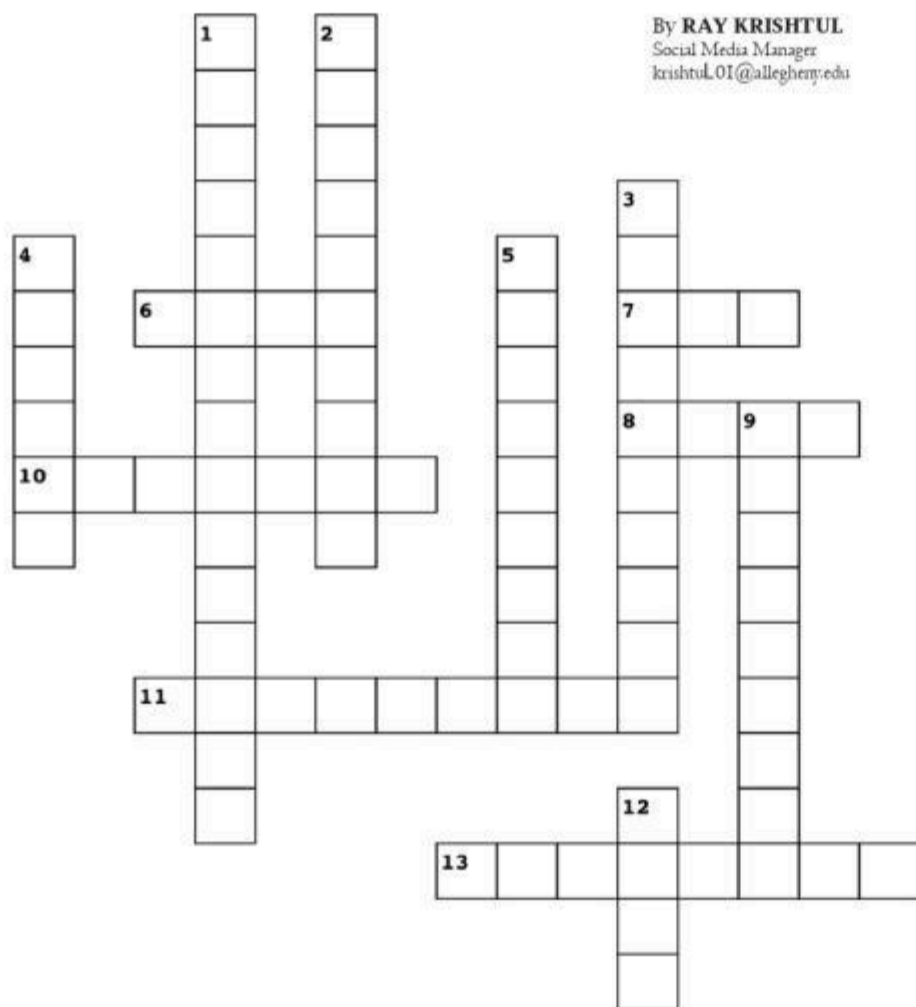


SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

Cole delivers his speech to the incoming freshman class of 2028. Due to inclement weather, matriculation was moved from the Bicentennial Plaza to Shafer Auditorium.

Trivia in The Campus

By **RAY KRISHTUL**
Social Media Manager
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- Down**
- Famous college dropout and U.S. president that attended Allegheny (two words)
 - Famous alumna and icon of investigative journalism (two words)
 - Workout in the ___ (two words)
 - Very ___! Very mindful!
 - New dining service
 - Town
 - ___ Summer (ft. Charli XCX)
- Across**
- Environmental Science Building
 - Current Editor-in-Chief of The Campus
 - An Allegheny senior's biggest stressor
 - The President (two words)
 - Found recently in Lake Erie
 - Every year a student steals the ___th plank on the bridge over the ravine

Answer Key

- Across**
6. Carr 7. Sam 8. Comp 10. Ron Cole 11. Alligator 13. Thirteen
- Down**
1. William McKinley 2. Ida Tarbell 3. Wise Center 4. Denmore 5. Parkhurst 9. Meadowville 12. Brent