

09/06/2024 Paper

1876

2024

The Campus

Volume 149, Issue 2
Friday, September 6, 2024

Meadville, Pennsylvania
www.alleghenycampus.com

IDEAS Center extension space remodeled



ANNA WESTBROOK/THE CAMPUS
Gary Murray, '26, and Akida Nooha, '27, talk in the newly remodeled IDEAS Center extension space during the IDEAS Center's first day of school coffee and donuts event on Tuesday, Aug. 27.

See IDEAS | page 2

Former Allegheny student receives settlement from Meadville

By ANNA WESTBROOK
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Meadville City Council members authorized a \$200,000 settlement award to a former Allegheny College student at its Tuesday, Sept. 3, meeting.

The settlement is related to a 2019 incident in which Kobe Pinkney was arrested by Meadville City Police and wrongly charged for an assault at Julian's Bar and Grill after the investigating officer demonstrated a "reckless disregard for the truth," according to a recent court ruling. Pinkney filed a lawsuit in 2019 against the city of Meadville, Allegheny College and seven additional parties seeking compensatory and punitive damages for a variety of civil rights violations.

The recent settlement names three of the nine original defendants: former Meadville Police Department Chief Michael Tautin, Officer Jared Frum and the city of Meadville. The claims against the other defendants, including Tautin, were previously dismissed. The settlement does not contain an admission of guilt, according to City Manager Maryann Menanno.

"The City of Meadville is pleased to have this unfortunate incident behind us," Menanno said in reading from a prepared statement following

the City Council meeting. "We hope that this settlement will help Mr. Pinkney (sic) be able to move forward. The Meadville City Police Department strives to provide closure to the victims of crime and injustice. We largely owe our success in accomplishing this goal to the communities we serve and their unwavering support. Without the support of the community there would be no police department, and with no police department service and protection, there would be no community."

Meadville Mayor Jaime Kinder said after the City Council meeting that the settlement is covered entirely by the city's insurance and will not use any public or taxpayer dollars.

Earl Raynor, Pinkney's attorney, said that he and Pinkney are pleased with the outcome.

"We feel that it was a fair resolution for all parties and everybody gets to move on," Raynor said. "This was a very difficult thing for Kobe. His life was going one direction and then one fateful night, everything changed. He lost his football career... he had to, in effect, change career paths and goals. He did have a good landing, though. He transferred...he graduated and now he has a good job working, and I think that he's on his way to recovering." See SETTLEMENT | page 3

Allegheny Votes helps students prepare for upcoming Election Day

By SAM HEILMANN
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With Election Day approaching on Nov. 5, Allegheny organizations are preparing students to exercise their civic rights by organizing intentional conversations and a number of voter resources on an updated Allegheny Votes webpage.

The webpage was born out of necessity in 2020; under unprecedented voting conditions, the Center for Political Participation worked with the President's Office during the COVID-19 pandemic to compile resources for students about voting. Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of the Center for Political Participation Andrew Bloeser explained that, going into the 2024 election, Allegheny Votes is as helpful as ever.

"We want all of that information to be centralized in one easy to find place," Bloeser said. "Because at a number of colleges, that information is not as easy to find and the student is left to try to wander through and find it on their own. And I think a lot of students probably could do that, but this

makes it easier, I think."

The website includes a list of important voting deadlines, such as when to register for in-person or mail-in voting. It also includes information on how to register to vote, how to request an absentee ballot and how to return a mail-in or absentee ballot.

Also on the site is a list of events planned and hosted by the CPP and the Andrew Goodman Foundation in collaboration with other campus organizations, like the IDEAS Center. Events range from practical voting assistance — like a voter registration event in the Henderson Campus Center on Sept. 16 — to educational and thoughtful conversations, like a Constitution Day discussion on Sept. 17 with political theorist Allan Tellis to discuss "the significance of the Constitution amidst current threats to political freedom and equality."

"In addition to that (voter registration), we want students really thinking about what's happening in American politics, certainly at the national level but also at the state and local level," Bloeser said.

Emotional support and wellbeing is also a theme throughout the planned

election events. IDEAS Center Director Natalie Brown explained that the center will be an encouraging space for students throughout election season.

"We will just be a support system," Brown said. "Emotions are high, tempers are up about this — just like any presidential election now that I sit here and think about it — but we just want to be a safe space for people to come and, you know, sit with their feelings and emotions."

A panel discussion hosted by the CPP, AGF and IDEAS Center is already planned for Nov. 7 titled "What Happened on Election Day? What Does It Mean for American Democracy?" Both Bloeser and Brown stressed the importance of addressing emotions in the aftermath of the election, regardless of the outcome.

"We're mindful that this is going to be, perhaps, a dramatic election," Bloeser said. "We think it's useful — the same week the election happened, just a few days later — to have a constructive space to come together to have debates and even arguments and also some discussions about what's happened, why it matters and where we go next." See VOTES | page 3

ASG holds first meeting

By SAM HEILMANN
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The Allegheny Student Government swore in new senators and discussed updates to finances at the first General Assembly of the year on Tuesday, Sept. 3. Each class filled all five Senate positions except for the class of 2025, which has four.

The class of 2025 Senate swore in Akari Brown as president, Eva Dillaman as vice-president and Kent Cervantes as a senator, with Alexis Costanza absent from the meeting. Class of 2026 will be represented by Iris Styers as president, Hailey Herring as vice president and McKenzie Hughes, Douglas Malcolm and Danielle Gibson as senators. Class of 2027 will be represented by Liam Shields as president, Aubrey Carion — who was absent from the meeting — as vice president, and Lyra Lindsay, Kylie Thompson and Tristan Marinch as senators. Class of 2028 swore in George Asante as president, Bella Spiers as vice president and Simone Greene as a senator, with senators Charlotte Feucht and Grace Wilson absent from the meeting.

Cabinet members were also voted on, including Joe Leszczynski, '25, taking on the role of vice president. ASG President Ella DeRose, '27, ran with Ray Colabawalla, '25, as vice president last semester. Leszczynski noted the change during the meeting. See ASG | page 2

In this week's Campus...

LOOKING FOR AN AUTOGRAPH? 'GOOD LUCK, BABE!'

Chappell Roan doesn't want to give hugs at the grocery store — and that's fine with Editor-in-Chief Sam Heilmann, '26.

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ON THE BEAT

Allegheny hosted guest performer and composer Peni Candra Rini for two special events on Indonesian music, dance and culture.

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CELEBRATING MEADVILLE WITH DOWNTOWN DOLLARS

Staff Writer Paige Kageni, '27, headed downtown to profile two initiatives that brought students into Meadville's economic hub.

Page 6

FRIDAY



H: 79° L: 53°
Rain: 63%
Sunrise: 6:52 a.m.
Sunset: 7:44 p.m.

SATURDAY



H: 59° L: 45°
Rain: 69%
Sunrise: 6:53 a.m.
Sunset: 7:42 p.m.

SUNDAY



H: 62° L: 48°
Rain: 16%
Sunrise: 6:54 a.m.
Sunset: 7:41 p.m.

IDEAS from page 1

By ANNA WESTBROOK

News Editor
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The third floor of the Henderson Campus Center echoed with the bumping bass and smooth vocals of 90s R&B and rap music on Tuesday, Aug. 27. The IDEAS Center was the source of the celebration, drawing dozens of students for its first day of school coffee and donuts event.

With a remodeled lounge space and a new director at the helm, the IDEAS Center is poised to play a larger role in all students' lives.

The updated space was designed to encourage students to meet each other, talk, hang out, celebrate and collaborate, according to IDEAS Center Director Natalie Brown.

For Jazmine Thomas, '27, the remodel is a large improvement.

"I love the renovation," Thomas said. "I think that it looks so modern and nice, and there's so much more seating spaces, which I'm excited about because people were really having to find chairs (last year)."

Thomas chatted with fellow students near the spread of coffee, donuts, juice, chips and a platter of cheese and fresh fruit, tossing compliments toward those around her.

As a freshman, Thomas worked as a Jason Fellow, assisting in the daily operations of the IDEAS Center. The fellowship is named in honor of William C. Jason, an 1888 graduate and the first Black alumnus of Allegheny College, according to the IDEAS Center website.

"I think this year I'm going to continue being a Jason Fellow and work as a Gator Guide to put some more diversity into the guiding of the school," Thomas said. "You know, we want to see the school look as vibrant as possible."

The IDEAS Center — which stands for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Access and Social Justice — provides support for "under-resourced student populations" and provides "a gathering place for dialogue," according to the center's website.

Brown believes that all communities of under-resourced students should feel welcome in the space.

"I think that a lot of people walk past the IDEAS Center and see Black and brown students and say, 'Ok, that's a place for them,'" Brown said. "This is a place for everybody."

Brown took over as Interim Director of the IDEAS Center in September 2023 after the departure of former director Lisa Nicole Smith on Sept. 1. The quiet change in leadership followed a Feb. 2023 closed session of the Allegheny Student Government during which a student alleged that Smith made transphobic comments, and ASG consolidated power over Culture, Identity & Lead-

ership Coalition organizations in response to the allegations. However, the allegations were never discussed or corroborated publicly, and Dean of Inclusive Excellence Heather Moore Roberson said that Smith's departure was unrelated to the closed session, according to a Sept. 22, 2023 Campus article.

Brown was promoted to director of the IDEAS Center in December 2023. Though she had big ideas for what the IDEAS Center could be, Brown said she refrained from implementing significant changes during her first semester as director to maintain a sense of stability for students. But once summer came, Brown hit the ground running.

"I'm extremely excited to be the new permanent director of the IDEAS Center," Brown said. "But also to create — have the ability to create new things."

One of Brown's initiatives, "Leave No Crumbs," was enacted last semester and encourages students to achieve their full potential.

"That push of like, 'Hey, get out here, get to it, leave no crumbs' has left them excited, now coming back from internships and hearing all their experiences about now taking jobs," Brown said. "That 'Leave No Crumbs' initiative really drove them to take advantage of resources and start creating a life for themselves."

Brown wants to continue the theme while also expanding the center to participate in larger cross-campus activities.

This year, for example, the IDEAS Center and the Advancement of Black Culture student organization will host a Homecoming event during Blue & Gold Weekend tailored to alumni of color and students of color. In addition to creating a fun environment, Brown hopes the event will connect students with alumni and begin to establish relationships that can provide students with mentorship and career guidance.

The center will also continue its efforts to engage students through many strategic avenues that reach broad swaths of students.

Last year, in addition to other programs and training, the IDEAS Center helped organize several Springfest events, collaborated with FIJI to host the "Do You See Me?" community conversation series and trained student athletes on equity and mutual respect.

"That's me trying to expand, not just serve as IDEAS Director, but serve as a learning vessel to bring people together, to bring unity, to teach people how to see their errors — because we all come from different backgrounds and make those adjustments so we can all be very comfortable living together here on this campus," Brown said.

The recent establishment of the RISE program marks another step the college is taking to provide support for students from

underrepresented backgrounds.

Established in 2019 by the Rhodes Trust and the former CEO of Google Eric Schmidt and Wendy Schmidt, RISE is a national program that identifies promising young people and provides them with opportunities that allow them to work together to serve others over their lifetimes, according to the RISE website.

In Allegheny's RISE program, students will receive comprehensive personal, professional and academic development, according to the college website. Program highlights include a first-year retreat before classes begin, alumni mentorship pairing, summer research through the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, attending the Great Lake College Association's Students of Color Leadership Conference, personalized internship preparation and peer mentoring.

Michael Owens, '28, is a member of the first Allegheny RISE cohort and has enjoyed his experience so far with the program.

"It's been really nice having that support knowing that there are 13 people that you're here in the beginning with," Owens said. "And hopefully there will be 13 when you end with it, or more throughout the years and more people join."

Owens said the program has already helped him establish close relationships with several staff members from the IDEAS Center and the ODEI, including Associate Dean of Inclusive Excellence Dominique Turner.

At the IDEAS Center's coffee and donuts event, Owens relaxed on the new gray sectional couch with his laptop perched on his lap.

"Overall, this reminds me of an open house, kind of," Owens said. "You know, like a party over with your family and certain people. So, it feels homey."

For Brown, seeing students using the space and building relationships with each other is exactly what she'd hoped for.

"The IDEAS Center is made now to be that place of coming together for real," Brown said. "Like, not just saying that everybody's welcome here. It's, 'Everybody really is welcome here,' because we want — we don't grow unless we really come together and have the hard conversations. We can't duck and dodge the hard conversations. We have to talk about them. Once we do — once we understand perspectives and understand the lives that we've lived before we got here — it makes everything more better. It makes it peaceful."



Michael Owens, '28, relaxes in the IDEAS Center's newly remodeled extension space. "Overall, this reminds me of an open house, kind of," Owens said. "You know, like a party over with your family and certain people. So, it feels homey."



Jason Gyamfi, '25, walks in front of the IDEAS Center's new TV and stereo system. The Mutual Aid Closet is located to the left of the entertainment system, in an upgraded storage unit.

ASG from page 1

"I guess I can take a moment to address the fact that I am sitting as Vice President," Leszczynski said. "That is because the former vice president stepped down for personal reasons. I appreciate the approval to take on this position, I take it very seriously. I don't want this to be a hurdle for us."

Colabawalla responded to The Campus' request for comment via email, citing personal reasons as the reason for his absence.

"Due to personal reasons I wanted to step down, I fully support the administration

and wish them the best of luck," Colabawalla wrote.

Updates to finance were also a topic of discussion. Brown motioned to extend the finance discussion for five minutes, which then included questions from senators on the updates. The main update involved financing club trips, which used to require clubs to fundraise 30% of the cost. Now, ASG will pay the entirety.

"Pre-Covid we did not have the 70/30 (rule)," said Dean for Student Life Trae Ye-

ckley. "So it hasn't always been a thing, and it causes a lot of confusion when it comes to finance and it also is one reason why we had such a large surplus, we weren't spending all the money on the students now. So while it seems like you're spending more money with less budget, that's not necessarily true — we're actually making sure the money is spent now on you."

During the constituent comment period, Zula Stenger, '25, spoke as a representative of Feminist Majority, an outside organiza-

tion which hires students on college campuses in swing states to mobilize voters for the presidential election.

"If anyone has ideas or would like to volunteer — that's one thing we're looking for — please reach out to me," Stenger said. "We would love to work with you, and don't forget how important this election is."

GA closed at 8:07 p.m. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 7:30 in room 301/302 of the Henderson Campus Center.

SETTLEMENT from page 1

Describing his frustration with the Meadville Tribune, Raynor said that even though a settlement has been reached, the case is not over.

"But every day, unfortunately, because the Meadville Tribune has not made any kind of recantation — they haven't taken down the initial stories regarding the assault," Raynor said. "Everyday, he's approached by people who say they saw something on the internet about him assaulting someone, when it didn't happen."

Raynor said he, Pinkney, and Pinkney's mother are planning to pursue a defamation lawsuit against the Meadville Tribune and may also appeal the motions to dismiss involving Allegheny College and college-related parties.

The pivotal hours Raynor referred to occurred during the early morning hours of April 7, 2019. At Julian's Bar and Grill, an Allegheny alumnus was assaulted and later sent to UPMC Hamot in Erie for immediate reconstructive surgery. The victim's mother told police that he had to have emergency surgery requiring three plates and 15 pins to repair the left side of his face, according to Meadville Tribune reporting at the time.

On April 10, the Meadville city police interviewed a witness to the assault, Duncan Freeland, '19, in the Office of Public Safety. Freeland said he was waiting in line for the

restroom at Julian's on the night of April 7 when "an African American boy about 6' tall" with "some kind of braids" approached the victim, tapped him on the shoulder and then punched the left side of his face, according to the probable cause affidavit filed by the police in the case.

Though Freeland had not recognized the attacker at first, a friend of the victim later tried to jog his memory by sending him three photos, according to Pinkney's original lawsuit. In all three, Pinkney was the only Black man. According to the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals ruling denying Frum's appeal, Freeland thought that Pinkney "look[ed] an awful lot like" the attacker, but never explicitly and unequivocally named Pinkney as the attacker. He also repeatedly pointed out that Pinkney did not wear braids in his hair while the man he saw assault the victim just a few days prior did.

Using Freeland's witness statement, Frum sought and obtained an arrest warrant for Pinkney, and Pinkney was removed from a philosophy class on April 11 by former Interim Director of Public Safety William Merzbaker. He was then taken into custody by Meadville city police prior to being arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Samuel Pendolino. After the arraignment, he was transported to Crawford County jail before posting the \$5,000 bail a few hours

later, according to Campus reporting at the time.

The charges against Pinkney were withdrawn by the Crawford County District Attorney's Office on May 14, 2019, according to Campus reporting at the time.

Pinkney's original lawsuit stated Pinkney was not present at Julian's Bar and Grill when the attack occurred. According to the lawsuit, Pinkney's mother provided a McDonald's receipt "which had been stamped date and time of (1 a.m. April 9), which was coincident with the date and time of the assault against" the victim. The lawsuit also said that college records showed Pinkney checking into his dorm room at 1:15 a.m. and that Pinkney did not have braids in his hair at the time.

Additionally, according to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, several witnesses came forward in Pinkney's defense. Freeland then recanted his identification, according to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

As claims against several defendants were dismissed, Pinkney's claims of false arrest and malicious prosecution against the city of Meadville and Frum proceeded. The U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania twice considered Frum's claim of qualified immunity, both times denying his motion to dismiss.

After Frum appealed the most recent

ruling, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in March denied his appeal, instead finding that Frum had violated Pinkney's rights.

The Court found that during Frum's witness interview of Freeland, Frum never probed how well Freeland could observe the assault, nor asked how Pinkney resembled the attacker. Rather, he asked several leading questions assuming Pinkney committed the assault. The Court ruled that Frum had demonstrated a reckless disregard of the truth by misrepresenting information in the warrant application, overstating the certainty of the witness, ignoring inconsistencies, and omitting key facts — all of which were deemed material to the finding of probable cause and, thus, a violation of Pinkney's rights.

"A police officer may not put on blinders and then claim ignorance," the court wrote. "A single witness identification, without more, must have at least basic signs of reliability to amount to probable cause. That bar is not high; either corroboration or an appropriate witness interview may suffice. But based on the facts alleged, neither happened here. So Officer Frum violated Pinkney's Fourth Amendment rights by arresting him without probable cause."

VOTES from page 1

Reagan Grace Wheat, '26, is a Law and Policy student and is well aware of the emotions that can crop up when talking about politics. For a political science class last year, Wheat created a card game called "Political Friendship," designed to facilitate difficult political conversations in a constructive way.

"Everyone's like, 'Don't talk about politics, don't talk about politics,'" Wheat said. "But the truth is we all talk about it anyway, so how can we provide a safe environment to talk about those things?"

"Political Friendship" is made up of three rounds of timed question cards. The first round is more factual, asking players to find out who their state representative is, for example. The second and third rounds get into deeper conversation, broaching topics like

abortion and gun control.

Wheat explained that the game is ultimately meant to foster an inclusive environment where players can feel comfortable expressing their opinions or acknowledging when they don't know something.

"Another thing that's really important within the idea of 'Political Friendship' — or just politics I guess in general — is that sometimes people are afraid to admit if they don't know something and then that can cause fake information to roll out," Wheat said.

When it comes to voting itself or talking about anxiety in elections, Allegheny Votes is ultimately about support, according to Brown.

"IDEAS is very big on community and

making sure that that community is supported and that we know how to assist one another in a time of discomfort, in a time of, again, confusion," Brown said.

Brown also mentioned that student employees of the IDEAS Center — the Jason Fellows — will be trained on how to register students to vote.

With support coming from a variety of avenues, ensuring a student's ability to vote in this election should be as simple as possible, Bloeser explained, but that doesn't mean you should put off the task of registering to vote or applying for an absentee ballot.

"Do not wait until the last day before the official deadline to do these things," Bloeser said. "Do them as soon as you can."

This includes up-

dating your residential address if you are voting in Meadville and have moved to a new residential hall, and not using Allegheny's address when filling out your ballot. Instead, students should use the address of their residential buildings.

"If you have voted in Meadville in the past and you lived in a different dorm last year than you live in this year, make sure to do the change of address form so that you are registered at your current address," Bloeser added.

Those interested in learning more about all of the resources offered by Allegheny Votes can visit the Allegheny Votes website at sites.allegheny.edu/vote/.

Ask Allegheny

What has your dining experience been like compared to last year?



Left: Jason Gyamfi, '25

"I think it got better — more variety — however, for my Muslim brothers and sisters out here, it's a lot of pork. Besides that, they're doing a good job."



Left: Shamar Nguyen, '27

"I kind of like it, the new version...Just gotta season the food a little bit."

Right:
Zula Stenger, '25



"I would say overall it's been positive. I appreciate the choices and especially all the fresh fruit, but it does continuously feel fatiguing. But I think that's all college food."

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.

August 29, 2024
Act 64 (Drugs)
On Campus
Referred to MCPD

August 29, 2024
Disorderly Conduct
On Campus
Active Investigation

August 29, 2024
Harassment
On Campus
Active Investigation

September 1, 2024
Disorderly Conduct
On Campus
Active Investigation

September 1, 2024
Harassment
On Campus
Active Investigation

September 2, 2024
Tresspass
Newton Observatory
Active Investigation

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The Campus is printed every Friday during the academic year, except during breaks and exam periods.

Learning to laugh

The value of finding humor in everything

By **EMMA CONTI-WINDLE**
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On Friday, August 30, 2024, I tripped over myself in public seven times. Nothing was on the floor. Just me, my feet and a disconnect somewhere along the way. It happened in multiple places across campus. It happened twice in the David V. Wise Center, once in Baldwin Hall, once on each floor of the Henderson Campus Center and once in Brooks. I was on a roll! Having been a grade A walker for about 17 years now, and a cross country and track runner for six of those years, I had hoped that I would have mastered the art of putting one foot in front of the other by now. But sometimes, our destiny chooses us.

I'm not sure if anyone saw any of my follies. There were no interactions immediately following them, but I'm not sure if I would have much to say to a girlie who tripped on the air in front of her multiple times in 20 seconds. I would probably keep my head down to spare her some embarrassment. If that was you last week, thank you.



Humor humanizes us. It levels the playing field and lightens the sky."

—EMMA CONTI-WINDLE
Class of 2027

I really can't explain why I tripped seven times. The front of my shoe just kept sticking to the ground and my rhythm was disturbed, but I persevered. And that's growth, people.

This time last year, if I had tripped in public once, I would not have stopped thinking about it for the rest of the week. It would have made me cringe and would have distracted me, and I honestly would have Facetimed my mom about it and worried about who saw it happen. But this year, I just laughed all seven times. Because it's funny.

I think part of my growth was simply getting more comfortable with my new home, but I think a lot of it was becoming more comfortable with myself. I started to imagine my embarrassing moments as if I were watching them in a movie and I was the protagonist. My character did something funny. I still want my character to succeed, and she will. But my character also just tripped on nothing and that is funny.

Classes are back in session. We're all back together and experiencing one another basically 24/7. Stakes are high, and the potential for a career-ending, life-altering, embarrassing moment is even higher.

As a new resident advisor in the same first-year building I was in last year, I feel like I am on a stumble down memory lane and the weather is cloudy with a chance of hyper-self awareness and an all-consuming fear of messing up. But being reminded of the feelings I felt by simply walking the same halls and smelling the same smells that I did when I was a first-year has made it clear

to me that I now know the secret to survival in this sweaty, heart-rate-increasing, shoe-sticking simulation that we are all in: laughter.

I struggle with anxiety. And sometimes, it gets really bad. Little things become huge and medium things make me want to stay in bed until I am 54. It sucks. Everyone deals with their mental health differently. Doing hard things on purpose, taking deep breaths and calling my mom helps me the most. But anxiety will always be a part of my life.

It was really bad when I was a first-year. Every time I walked into class, I wanted to be totally silent. So naturally, during only the first week of classes, I dropped my cup onto a cement floor. It wasn't silent. Next, I waved to someone in Brooks that wasn't waving to me. And then, I mustered up the courage to go sit with two girls and introduce myself during a painting event in the campus center and as soon as I opened my mouth to tell them my name, the devil himself decided to tap dance on my vocal cords, launching me into a category five coughing fit, and causing me to have to excuse myself from the table, hack up a lung in the first floor bathroom and then come back to continue my first attempt at making friends at college. It was a week of character building.

By the end of that week, I was walking up to strangers and asking them for their thoughts on the overturning of Roe v. Wade for my first Campus article. Clearly, exposure therapy has proven to be reasonably effective for me.

Memories of those occasions and countless others — walking the wrong direction and having to turn around, getting questions wrong, getting names wrong, getting room numbers wrong, basically getting anything wrong — tortured me for a while because there is something about being in a new place — especially school — and wanting to succeed so badly that makes it feel like one small misstep will ruin everything. But that's simply not the truth. Because now I know that even after seven missteps, I'm still smart, I'm still kind, I still have friends, people still love me and I can still be successful. And I think most of that lesson was learned through my choice to laugh at myself, and pretty much everything else.

Harder things will come up than dropping a cup, or not making a ton of friends the first week at school, or tripping on nothing. Save the tears for the hard stuff, and then laugh at that stuff too.

At the end of the day, we can always choose to laugh. The better I got at finding humor, the happier, and honestly, the kinder I became. Humor humanizes us. It levels the playing field and lightens the sky.

No one is above tripping and falling. Literally no one. In my case, there wasn't much of a choice.

And so, if you see me trip on nothing, have a laugh while your head is down. Or look right at me and we can laugh together. Because it is not that serious. It's funny.

Chappell Roan and the limits of fame

By **SAM HEILMANN**
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Setting boundaries is H-O-T-T-O-G-O. Rising pop star Chappell Roan has started a long-overdue conversation on what it means to be famous, particularly as someone who blew up very quickly. On Aug. 23, Roan posted a message to Instagram explaining her boundaries when it comes to fans interacting with her in public. "I don't agree with the notion that I owe a mutual exchange of energy, time, or attention to people I do not know, do not trust, or who creep me out—just because they're expressing admiration," she wrote in her post.

Unsurprisingly, not all users were receptive to her message when she first broached the subject on TikTok. Comments were turned off on her Aug. 23 post as a result — "This isn't a group conversation," she wrote in the description of the post.

While some fans might say she is asking for too much privacy for someone who chose to seek out a career in the spotlight, I say that Roan is addressing a conversation that we as a society have put off having for too long.

Fame has evolved rapidly in the 21st century and it's easy to forget just how drastical-

ly celebrity and fandom have changed. The introduction of social media — specifically mobile social media — has made fame incredibly attainable. That's not to say it's easy to become famous, but social media has created avenues for fame that did not exist even 20 years ago. You can, with luck, become famous from within your bedroom — there is no need to rely on outside resources to gain a following.

Fandom, in a similar way, has become all the more accessible, physically and digitally. Just as there are more avenues to fame, there are new ways to interact with celebrities. Physically, we can now record and take pictures of people easily and quickly, and get praise online for doing so. Digitally, we can see interactions with our favorite creators from a fan perspective. When it comes to influencers or other celebrities born out of the social media age, we as fans may also have access to famous creators themselves, as there is no barrier to talking to creators on the apps that made them famous.

This is all to say that modern fame has a new level of pressure to it. Work, whether you are famous for it or not, should end at some point. For some, it's the end of the workday. For others, leaving work behind is more ambiguous. For someone like Roan

with a recognizable look, that work is never really done.

Now, defending the rich and famous is not exactly a cause I would put high on my list of priorities. I do think it is interesting, though, to see someone so strongly defend their boundaries, not only as a celebrity, but as a woman — to so early in their career address a problem that has affected other women in the entertainment industry to a harmful extent.

I would also argue that identifying with celebrities so personally is a relatively new phenomenon. Celebrities are made all the time; I hadn't heard of Chappell Roan until last semester, and over the summer she performed to possibly the largest Lollapalooza crowd in the festival's history. A lot can change very quickly, and that includes who we as fans see ourselves supporting. We



I won't defend celebrities in a blanket statement, but I think we should agree — as casual fans or superfans — that we are not entitled to anyone."

—SAM HEILMANN
Class of 2026

want the people that we follow and support in a number of ways — or represent with merch, for example — to be good people, or at least reflect our values. Shouldn't we as fans respect the values of those creators?

Media theorist Marshall McLuhan famously said that the medium is the message. With social media and cell phones as our medium for consuming content, celebrities are literally in our hands; that is arguably a closer relationship than you would have with, say, an actor you could only ever see on T.V.

With such a low barrier of entry to becoming famous, and such an accessible way to reach and even interact with the people we admire, we ought to build that relationship on a foundation of mutual respect. We have for a while now treated celebrities like we are entitled to them. I won't defend celebrities in a blanket statement, but I think we should agree — as casual fans or superfans — that we are not entitled to anyone.

How we treat other people, no matter who they are, says a lot about who we are. When we treat people as if we are entitled to their time or a physical interaction or reciprocated enthusiasm, it says more about us than when they ultimately put boundaries in place.

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Indonesian Culture and Dance Workshops

By **AB SNYDER**
 Features Editor
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More than 25 students and faculty gathered in silent awe at the performance happening in front of them in the Montgomery Music Hall on Monday night. They listened intently to the strong voice that rang out, no background music and watched the slow, rhythmic movements to accompany the song. They were captivated by what was happening before them, sitting so silent and still that a pin could be heard to drop. Once the dance ended, the performer broke into nervous giggles and a smile.

Students and staff were witnessing the performance of Peni Candra Rini, a Javanese renowned performer, composer and faculty member at the Indonesian Institute of the Arts in Surakarta, Java. Rini came to Allegheny as a guest artist hosting two workshop events. On

Monday night, participants learned the art of Javanese dance and culture. The following Tuesday night, they had the opportunity to play Gamelan, a traditional Indonesian percussion ensemble. After each night, participants were encouraged to grab a Javanese snack.

The workshops served as the introduction to the one-credit opportunity for students to join the Gamelan ensemble this semester.

Rini's guest appearance at the college was brought on quickly in the one week that Assistant Professor of Music Hannah Standiford had been at Allegheny.

"She's a world class performer and composer," Standiford said. "I thought to myself, on the one hand, we don't even know what Gamelan is yet, is this the time to bring Peni in or later after people have some experience first? But it's also like, what an introduction!"

Standiford and Rini met when the former was studying music in Indonesia in

2014. When Standiford went back to Indonesia in 2017, Rini served as her Fulbright sponsor. The Fulbright program is an international cultural exchange program that sends 800 U.S. Scholars abroad a year for research opportunities, shared community and innovative ideas.

As for the workshops, Standiford says it was a rather ambitious project to get off the ground so quickly, but it was the only time that Rini was available to come, as she is being hosted for the month at the University of Richmond.

While teaching the audience members the skills of dance, Rini also shared a little bit about herself and Javanese culture in order for people to get a deeper understanding of what it was that they learned, and to be able to share that knowledge with others. For instance, Rini explained that although she was raised Hindu, Indonesia is primarily Muslim, though central Java has

many religions.

The 10-minute dance that Rini performed was a variation of a much longer, 30-minute composition. The dance is also very traditional, but she wrote it in a new form. Rini also explained before the dance that there are three types of Javanese dance: when the dancer comes into the palace, the main part inside the palace, and when the dancer comes out of the palace. The Javanese palaces hold a lot of spiritual power and respect, Rini said.

"I gave a short version of the piece in the first workshop," Rini said. "The dance is inspired by the Goddess of the rice. It is a manifestation of the Javanese women and how they move."

In one variation of the dance, it is performed as a group dance with seven dancers — the number of the goddess. During the workshop, Rini explained the finite hand movements throughout the dance that represented things people

prayed to the goddess for, such as love.

The second night more than 35 people attended the Gamelan workshop. The Gamelan played was actually a small part of a much larger set. The event was open to all to participate, regardless if they had any musical experience whatsoever.

"It's very different from other ensembles because you need to audition for a choir or band," Standiford said. "You're not going to go and join the band if you've never played trombone before, but no one in Crawford County has played Gamelan before. We're all starting from scratch and building up from there."

One student, Teag Cloonan, '28, attended the event as a requirement for his World Music class.

"It was mandatory, but I don't regret going to it," Cloonan said. "I like all the different instruments that you can play, I thought they were all unique. That's not something you get to see in

America. It's definitely a rare experience that we don't get to do everyday."

Cloonan also expressed his appreciation for the level of teamwork that went into playing Gamelan. Rini herself said that it was about listening to your fellow players, and being in tune with them.

While Rini was in town, she shared the art of Javanese dance and culture, and taught the skills of Gamelan. "I'm so happy to see the energy from people here — students and faculty — and to welcome this Javanese culture and play here," Rini said.

Next, she is off to a number of tours and performances, such as a performance at the Roulette Intermedium in New York, and a festival in Richmond, Virginia.

"Peni Candra Rini is an extremely good musician," Cloonan said. "And that was only a tiny little bit of what she can do."



AB SNYDER/THE CAMPUS

Assistant Professor of Music Hannah Standiford plays the main drum and leads the tempo for the participants.



AB SNYDER/THE CAMPUS

In room 206 of the Henderson Campus Center, Peni Candra Rini leads the instruction on how to play on a smaller set of Gamelan instruments.



AB SNYDER/THE CAMPUS

Peni Candra Rini and the participants slowly go through a shortened sequence of her Javanese dance.

Comedy Corner

By **JOSEPH KLEPEIS**
 Staff Writer
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CNN reported on Aug. 26 that matching sets of dinosaur footprints have been discovered in Africa and South America.

The footprints are over 3,700 miles apart on opposite sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

"This is huge news," said one of the paleontologists who found the footprints. "Imagine how big this thing was if its feet were 3,700 miles apart!"

Over 9,500 cases of 100% apple juice sold at Walmart have been recalled due to high levels of arsenic, according to ABC News on Aug. 26.

"I guess it's true what they say," said a customer returning some apple juice. "Everything is trying to kill us."

The Denver Post reported on Aug. 26 that Peyton Manning will erill Larry Da-

vid at Denver's Paramount Theatre.

"This seems insane," said a Denver resident and self-proclaimed Larry David fan. "I thought cannibalism was illegal."

Lily Allen is facing backlash after revealing that she returned a dog she adopted because it ate her passport, according to USA Today on Aug. 26.

"I don't get it," Allen said. "If the dog wanted to eat around the world we could've gone to Epcot."

Piracy ring Fmovies has been shut down by police in Vietnam, according to The Guardian on Aug. 29.

The illegal streaming operation is considered the largest in the world.

"It's amazing they got so big," said a Vietnamese police officer, "considering they only hosted five movies."

The five movies are as follows. Pirates of the Carib-

bean: The Curse of the Black Pearl, Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest, Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End, Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides and Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales.

In an article published on Aug. 26 The Sacramento Bee asked "Where do most of Sacramento 311 calls about the homeless come from?"

The answer was simple. Most, if not all calls, came from phones.

A runner in Marblehead, Massachusetts may have been bitten by a coyote, according to the Boston Globe on Aug. 27.

The runner first reported the animal as a dog, but city officials believe it may have been a coyote.

"It just makes sense that it was a coyote. They're Wile E. creatures," said a Marblehead animal control employee. "They love to chase

after roadrunners."

Wall St was muted on Aug. 27 ahead of Nvidia results and economic data, according to Reuters.

When reached out for comment, Wall St was silent.

Arrests have been made at a Las Vegas spa tied to a money-laundering investigation, according to the Las Vegas Review-Journal on Aug. 27.

"We caught the money in the act," said a Las Vegas police officer. "It had just finished up a massage and was on its way to a body wrap when we came on the scene."

A top J.D. Vance aide previously worked for far-right consultancy with extremist links, according to The Guardian.

Are we meant to be surprised by this information?

Bill coming after Santa Cruz county official accused

of \$39 million theft, according to The Arizona Republic on Aug. 29.

"I don't know who Bill is," said the Arizona Auditor General. "But he can't get here soon enough."

A new cocktail bar opening in Kansas City is inspired by the Southwest, according to The Kansas City Star on Aug. 31.

"There's a few things that come to mind when people think of Southwest," said one of the owners. "Our biggest gimmicks are that our drinks are double the standard price, we keep a crying baby in the corner of the building at all times and the bar is built on a faultline so expect turbulence often."

The BBC reported on Sept. 1 that a beluga whale has been found dead off the Norwegian coast.

The whale was suspected of having been trained as a spy for Russia.

Vladimir Putin may ac-

tually be a James Bond villain.

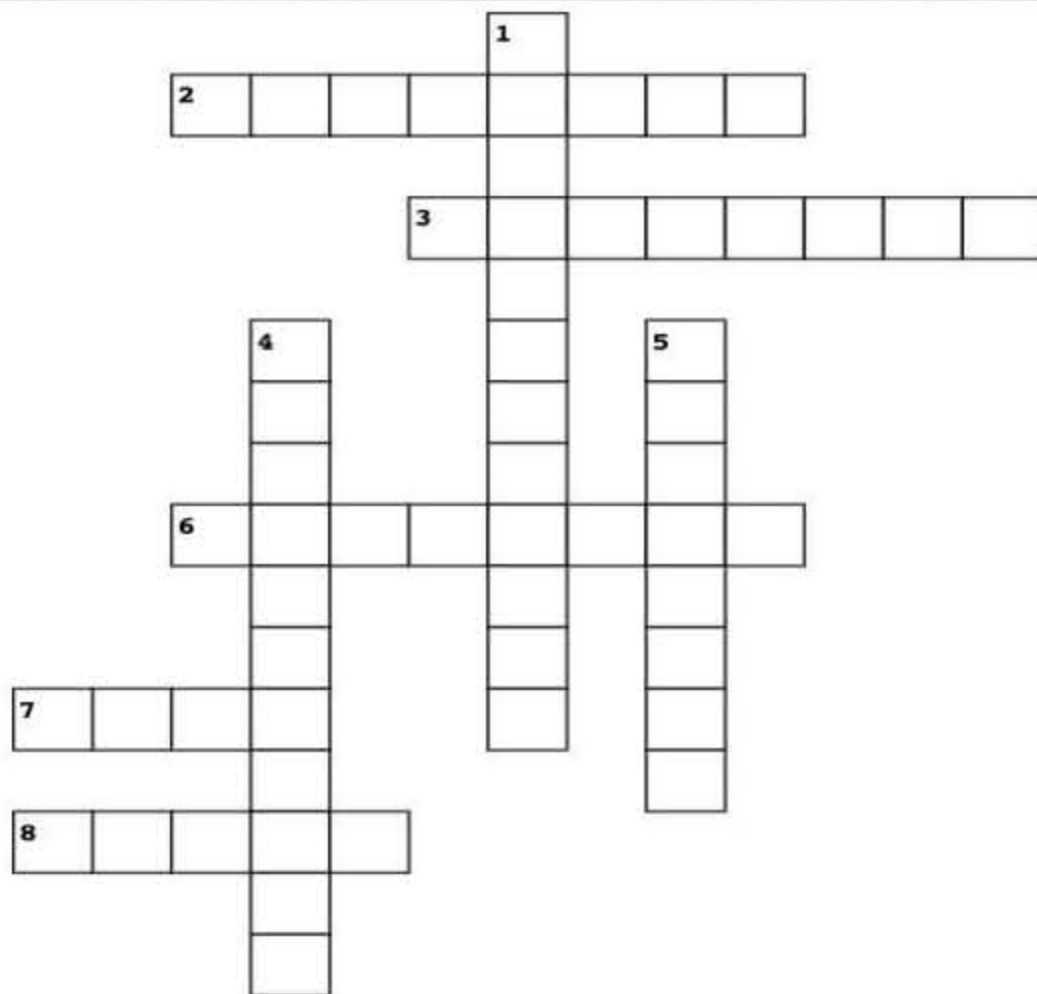
Italian rower Giacomo Perini was disqualified and lost his Paralympics bronze medal after he was found with a mobile phone on his boat in Paris on Sunday, but the athlete said it was an oversight and he never used it to communicate, according to Reuters.

"He was flying over the water," said another rower. "He definitely set his phone to airplane mode."

Adele told fans that "you won't see me for an incredibly long time" after her tour ends in Las Vegas, according to The Times.

"After my tour ends people will be unable to see me," Adele said. "I've finally figured out how to turn invisible and intend to try that out for a while."

DISCLAIMER: All quotes are fictitious unless noted otherwise.



A Crisp Crossword

By **RAY KRISHTUL**
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Across

- Local downtown bar and grill (apostrophe included)
- _____ is the best medicine
- You can't wear white after _____ (two words)
- A national program that helps students receive comprehensive personal, professional and academic development
- Remember to vote on November _____

Down

- Current Director of The I.D.E.A.S. Center (two words)
- A designed space to be intentionally in support of BIPOC and other historically marginalized students (two words)
- The culture and dance of Indonesia

Answer Key

- Across**
- Nadine Brown
 - Laurel Day
 - Laughter
 - LABOR DAY
 - RISE
 - Fifth

- Down**
- Nadine Brown
 - I.D.E.A.S. Center
 - Javanese

Allegheny celebrates Meadville with Downtown Dollars

By PAIGE KAGENI
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The morning air is warm and humid. The smell of barbecue wafts and travels through it. The sound of children playing reverberates throughout Diamond Park. A guitarist serenades the crowd before him, plucking his strings to a delightful melody. Vendors and community organizations pitch their tents, eager to engage with passersby.

It's 11:30 a.m. on a Saturday and everyone is gathered for Celebration Meadville, a yearly event to commemorate the city of Meadville. In addition, numerous Allegheny students congregate around, exploring downtown shops and businesses in hopes to spend their Downtown Dollars.

Tours of downtown for first year students were held numerous times over the past several years according

to Andy Walker, '00, executive director for the office of economic, civic & community engagement. The office worked in tandem with the Meadville Independent Business Alliance to schedule Week of Welcome events to introduce students to the area that surrounds them. Tour guides cycle through various locations to get students acquainted with the environment off campus, as well as meeting Walker and Meadville's mayor, Jaime Kinder.

"The goal is to familiarize students with downtown and what the downtown business community has to offer," Walker said. "Each student will receive a \$5 Downtown Dollars gift certificate, which is eligible for use at participating Meadville Independent Business Alliance member businesses."

Not only does Celebration Meadville provide a space for people from all walks of life to come together,

but it also encourages economic growth within the community. Students and staff visiting businesses and organizations spread information about them and how they can interact with them best.

The Downtown Dollars certificates can be used any time during the school year, giving students more opportunities to explore downtown businesses and Meadville as a whole.

"The downtown business community is interested," Walker said. "And so, really, it's to make [students] aware that they feel comfortable navigating and knowing where they're going."

Colin Hurley, associate dean and director of community engagement, also spoke about his work on the event and its importance to Allegheny. When planning the event, Allegheny organizers thought about ways to better engage with the wider Meadville community. The event taking place over the

Labor Day weekend played a large part in students, staff and community members being able to gather and connect with one another.

"Too often I think that the college is up here and that Meadville is there, this is a great opportunity to think, 'We already are a part of Meadville, so how do we explore it?'" Hurley said. "Having them be curious about us is a way of us opening ourselves up to the community."

Rosaria Betton, '26, was another member of the Allegheny community who lent a hand to organize Celebration Meadville. As a Bonner student, she has worked with her site leader for the past two years to bring the businesses, organizations and people together for the event.

"It's a lot of fun because it's just a big celebration for the Meadville community as a whole, which I feel is a great opportunity for the students to interact with the

Meadville residents themselves as well as the local businesses," Betton said.

Being a new student in a new environment can sometimes be overwhelming and can deter individuals from interacting with the world around them. That's why it's important for events like these to exist, according to Betton; to show how welcoming Meadville is and to have a place to have fun and learn about community engagement.

"With the Downtown Dollars and with the tours, it pushes them to familiarize themselves with the town and the people. Everyone is really nice," Betton said. "There's a lot of places that even I haven't been to yet; I know Cup n' Spoon is really popular and have a lot of really good deals for broke college students. There's FCCA, and they have a lot of great events and everyone there is so open and welcoming."

Hurley hopes events like these will draw students to

engaging with their community in more ways than one, such as through community service and relationship building. After the COVID-19 pandemic, where space between individuals was stressed, coming back together to understand what might be needed to help one another is important. Such events include Service Saturdays, which connect students with non-profits organizations in Meadville who could use assistance on one Saturday of the month.

"What does that look like if we empower students that are already in the community to do the storytelling?" Hurley said. "To say, 'Hey, come alongside me and join me for this event, be a part of something that's not just on campus. Don't just be in the bubble, but be a part of Meadville.'"



ANNA WESTBROOK/THE CAMPUS

Due to inclement weather earlier in the day, the annual Involvement Fair was moved into the Henderson Campus Center lobby. Students could visit dozens of clubs on the main floor and talk with community leaders and business partners on the second floor. Associate Dean and Director for Community Engagement Colin Hurley explained that including Meadville businesses at the Involvement Fair was a natural addition. "I think it's really important when we think about — Allegheny College is already part of the Meadville community," Hurley said. "It allows students to inquire and think about their involvement more broadly."

Involvement Fair 2024



ANNA WESTBROOK/THE CAMPUS

Volunteer firefighters Alexander Vincent, '27, and Eric Snider, '27, talk with students about the benefits of joining the community. "I would say it really connects you with the other people who agree with you on campus," Snider said. "Last year we had seniors on campus and they helped me with guidance with classes and just helped me in general — I feel welcomed here at Allegheny."



ANNA WESTBROOK/THE CAMPUS

Dean for the Student Experience Ian Binnington talks with Elle Carpenter, '25, at the Involvement Fair. 20 Meadville community organizations were represented at this year's fair for a total of about 100 tables.



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

Aubrey Carion, '27, represented the Bonner Program at the Involvement Fair. "We have a lot of different partners with a lot of different schools around the country," she said of the program.



SAM HEILMANN/THE CAMPUS

President of Union Latinx Gloria Ulloa-Soto, '25, (middle) explained that Union Latinx is both educational and relaxed. The goal is "to get the rest of the community to learn a little bit about these cultures and a lot of these different countries," Ulloa-Soto said. "But at the same time we want to create an inviting and welcoming space for Latinos and Hispanics on campus."