



# Power tools power pumpkin creativity



Senior Josie Salas and junior Raquel carefully carve their pumpkins at the Power Tool Pumpkin Carving event, concentrating over the workbench as they shape their designs with construction tools and a steady hand. | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez

Brady Cloud reporter

Wednesday, Oct. 15, at the School of Construction, students had the opportunity to carve pumpkins with power tools.

After picking out a pumpkin, students drew designs, then got to work carving. For those who had less experience with power tools or simply did not want to use them, knives and other traditional carving tools were also available.

The ending results were creative designs from students, ranging from the classic Jack-o'-lantern to the likeness of Gus the Gorilla.

The event was set up by assistant professor for the School of Construction and faculty sponsor for Women in Construction,

Erin Jordan. Jordan said that this is the third year the School of Construction has held this event and hopes to continue the tradition.

"The president at the time saw it and thought it would be a cool way to use tools and to carve a pumpkin," Jordan said. "It's a really low stakes way to get comfortable using tools."

Throughout the years, students have had an assortment of skill levels.

"Sometimes they don't have anything to do with Halloween. Sometimes they look terrible and that's fine, I'm not too good at pumpkin carving anyways!" Jordan said.

Jordan shared a trick to use when keeping pumpkins outside; spray them with hair spray to keep squirrels away.

# Students protest to be heard

Joshua Smith editor-in-chief

The Crawford County Young Democrats organized a protest in downtown Pittsburg on Oct. 18 as a part of the nation-wide "No Kings" demonstrations. The crowd at Pritchett Pavilion was estimated to be 300 people, made up of Pittsburg State University students, alumni, and Pittsburg community members.

In interviews, two PSU students said that this was their first protest. Their attendance motivated by curiosity and issue with the Trump presidency. Both said they are hopeful that the protest will make an impact.

Organizers of the event within the Crawford County Young Democrats believe that the collective action of the protesters brings the community closer together. Individual protesters have many different reasons for demonstrating, but the protests are generally in opposition to President Donald Trump, the Trump Administration, the administration's political policies, and the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement activities of detention and deportation. Critics of the protests claim that the demonstrators are opposing the enforcement of laws, the democratic will of the voters, and the United States itself.

Chidera Anyabolu, a freshman majoring in graphic communications, heard about the protest from friends. Anyabolu said that he is not into politics, so he was unfamiliar with the meaning behind the protest, but after some research, Anyabolu found that the message resonated with him.

"I came here with my camera to document and to experience my first ever protest, here at Pitt," Anyabolu said. "My friends told me that there was a protest happening. I didn't really know what the 'No Kings' protest meant, I'm not into politics at all, but I looked it up and saw that it was against the tyranny of our government and how Donald Trump is destroying what people have built throughout the years and I don't like that at all. For me to protest that - I feel like that would be true to me, to what I believe."

Anyabolu was happy with the attention that the protest got and hoped that the administration at Pittsburg State University took note. Anyabolu said he feels as though some voices are not heard at the university, like the voices of the Black Student Association.

"I feel like it's going great; it's calm but not too calm," Anyabolu said. "We're getting our message out there, we're being heard. People are honking, seeing what we got going on. I want this (protest) to be seen by not only the people of Pittsburg but also the school as well. From what I've seen, we don't really have anything for us to be heard, not just with this protest but other people who want to get their name out like the Black Student Association."

K'lynn Lawrence, a freshman majoring in construction management, was also attending a protest for the first time. She was curious so she joined some friends in the hopes of making change.

"I just heard there was a protest against Trump," Lawrence said. "I wanted to see how it is and experience it, and I'm here with friends too. I've never been to a protest before, so it's kind of new. It's actually really good and very peaceful. I hope it makes change."

Jackson Bertoncino, a grad student majoring in human resource development, said he suggested the protest be held and wanted to bring attention to the upcoming elections in Pittsburg, but did not organize the protest. Bertoncino is a candidate for Pittsburg City Commission in the upcoming election.

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SEE Protest PAGE 7



K'lynn Lawrence, a freshman majoring in construction management, holds an umbrella while marching in the "No Kings" protest. This was her first protest which she described as "really good and very peaceful." | Photo by Joshua Smith



Art blooms as art and marketing junior Rayce baker paints onto a clay disk. | Photo by Christopher Law

Christopher Law

# UAA paints magnets

Brianna Barnes managing editor

Students got into the Halloween spirit as they painted ceramic magnets on Thursday, Oct. 16. The University Art Association gathered with other students to paint Halloween themed magnets, including ghosts, witches, scarecrows, and more. Students enjoyed this event as a time of art and socializing.

UAA has done this over the years and normally uses them towards art sales. This year they chose to do it just for fun.

"We typically do this and paint ceramic molds and things for art sales," Isabella Huskey said, a junior majoring in art education and president of UAA. "This year we decided to do it just for fun. But it is something we do each year."

Hunter Hughes, a senior majoring in illustration and secretary of UAA, worked on painting ghosts at the event. The people and connections are what make UAA and his Thursdays in Porter Hall special to Hughes.

"UAA gets everyone together to work on art and for me, it's important, because I get to meet people around campus I would not have otherwise gotten to meet," Hughes said. "I mean, everyone's so busy and nice. It's nice getting to meet them, because throughout the week everyone is all over the place and not really talking, but then Thursday everything comes around and we get to chat and that kind of thing."

Huskey's appreciation for UAA comes from her future goals. She considers this opportunity beneficial to her goal of being an art teacher.

"UAA is important to me because I feel like it really carves into my future, as I'm wanting to be an art teacher," Huskey said. "This is a lot of good practice, and I did a lot of stuff like this in high school. I really enjoy building a community as well."

As everyone was in the Halloween spirit; Huskey said her favorite part about Halloween is the costumes and the creativity that comes with them.

Hughes finds Halloween to be a magical time, which is his favorite part about Halloween.

"Around Halloween, nighttime feels so much cooler," Hughes said. "I feel like everyone's kind of looking at the moon a little more. It's kind of like some more magic in the air."

Coming up for UAA, there is an art show next month. It will be installed on Nov. 8, and be up until Dec. 5. It will showcase student artwork, and they recently stopped taking applications as of Oct. 24. The event is the third annual and open to students, regardless of their major. This is also a juried exhibition, which means students will have the chance to be recognized.

UAA also has a vision board-making night coming up, as well as many random craft nights and projects. The vision board night will be Nov. 13, in Porter Hall, room 303, at 5 p.m.

# Student uses milk for research

Fatimah Bader reporter

Pittsburg State University graduate student Arifur Rahman has been making an impact in the world of materials science with his innovative research that transforms an everyday resource, milk, into a tool for healing. His passion for sustainability and biomedical innovation recently earned him national recognition, placing second in the Herman & Myrtle Goldstein Graduate Student Paper Competition at the AATCC & SEAMS Conference in Savannah, Georgia.

Rahman's work focuses on creating biocompatible composite fibers made from lactose derived from milk, blended with stearyl glycyrrhizinate, a compound from licorice known for its antimicrobial properties. Using a method he calls the "Melt Centrifugal/Rotary Jet Spinning Concept," Rahman produces ultra-fine fibers in a process similar to making cotton candy, heating the mixture until it melts and then spinning it rapidly, so it forms thin, solid fibers. The result is a safe, biodegradable material that can help prevent infections and promote wound healing.

"The idea came from thinking differently about what's around us," Rahman said. "Milk is something we all know, but lactose is biocompatible and safe for the human body. If we can make something useful from milk byproducts, we not only help patients, but also create value for the dairy industry."

His project reflects his commitment to sustainability, an idea that began when he learned how traditional biomedical fibers often rely on synthetic polymers and harmful solvents.

"That made me want to find a more natural, affordable, and environmentally friendly option," Rahman said.

Competing among students from major research institutions, Rahman stood out for his creative approach and clarity of purpose.

"It was humbling and motivating to win second place," Rahman said. "What made it special was hearing Pittsburg State University being mentioned alongside top schools in this field. It showed that our work here can compete nationally."

Behind his success stands a network of mentorship and collaboration. Rahman credits Dr. Mazeyar Parvinezadeh Gashti, his research advisor, for inspiring him to see science create real-world impact.

"Dr. Gashti has great ideas and always reminds us to think about how simple methods can improve people's lives," Rahman said.

Rahman also worked closely with Dr. Irene Zegar and Dr. Christopher Ward from PSU's Chemistry and Biology departments, who supported him with microscopy and antimicrobial testing. He also acknowledged Syed Inayat Ali Shah, an exchange undergraduate student who contributed significantly to the project's laboratory work.

"Their guidance helped refine my work," Rahman said.

Rahman's dedication extends beyond the lab. Balancing his role as a graduate research assistant with his coursework and personal life, he manages his time carefully.

"It's definitely a balancing act," Rahman said. "I set weekly goals and make sure to take time to recharge."

The university's support also played a crucial role in Rahman's success. He received a student travel award from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, which helped him present his work in Savannah.

SEE Research PAGE 7

# Beautiful story confuses trauma bonding for love ‘Our Infinite Fates’

Emily Ford design chief

Evelyn and Arden are destined to be the end of each other in every life for an eternity, no matter what their names are. The only issue? Evelyn is particularly fond of the life she is living currently, and she has someone to save, too: Her sister, who is thoroughly sick, and the only one with the ability to cure her is Evelyn.

Laura Steven’s “Our Infinite Fates” was a beautiful book to read. It had the vibe of V. E. Schwab’s “The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue,” with a much lighter tone for most of the story.

I absolutely loved the way this story was written. The author uses individual chapters as a peek into the characters’ previous lives to explain why the characters do what they do, or why they are the way they are in an

incredibly clever way of writing.

The use of past life as a way of backstory has to be one of my favorite parts of this book. Getting to see how the different cultures and time periods affected each of the main characters made the little details stand out even more.

That being said, there were some of these chapters that kind of felt out of place and incomplete with the story. It does make some sense for some of these chapters to be presented this way, as the story is told by Evelyn, who is an unreliable narrator.

I did enjoy most of the character interaction throughout this book, but there were some moments that made absolutely zero sense. There was a moment where a character was knocked out and kidnapped, but still willingly helped his kidnapper. Make that make sense.

“Our Infinite Fates” is meant to be a love story between two people who find each other in every life. The problem is, one of the most important aspects of a love story was missing: love. While there were little moments where you could kind of see the intent, you could not actually feel the love that was meant to be relayed in this book. Only a somewhat bittersweet trauma-bonded connection; and no, those are not the same things.

I had a great time reading this book. This has to be one of the more creative book topics I have read in a while. Sure, some of the moments can seem a bit cliché, but the way the author went about presenting it made it that much more of an interesting read. Even if some of the scenes in this book were a little muddled, they made so much more sense in the end. I give this book a 4/5.

# ‘Monster: The Ed Gein Story’, deeply conflicting

Bryce Bicknell reporter

At first glance, “Monster: The Ed Gein Story” is interesting, horrifying, and eye-opening. But when you take back the first layer, you see a much blurrier, even confused story filled with exaggerations, half-truths, and downright lies. However, contrary to most historical media that is inaccurate, the story that the show tells about The Butcher of Plainfield, Wisconsin, is still entertaining in my view. I would actually consider watching it before reading this review.

Part of the wider anthology series called “Monster,” created by Ryan Murphy and Ian Brennan, it stars Charlie Hunnam as Ed Gein, Suzanna Son as Adeline Watkins, and Laurie Metcalf as Augusta Gein. The series also features many other characters such as Alfred Hitchcock, Ilse Koch, Christine Jorgenson, Anthony Perkins, Tobe Hooper, and many others. The series not only focuses on Gein’s various crimes but also his influence on film and other serial killers.

The show begins in 1944 with Augusta, a deeply devout Lutheran, forbidding Ed from seeing women or using his reproductive organs in any way. Against his mother’s wishes he meets up with his friend Adeline who shows him comics about Ilse Koch, who was known to have Jews at Buchenwald skinned and turned into furniture after their deaths. He later talks to his brother who tells him he is leaving with a woman. This upsets Ed, who hits him with a log, killing him leading to Ed starting a fire to cover it up. This leads

to his mother having a stroke and eventually dying. Ed still hears her voice leading him to dig up a buried woman and pretend that it’s his mother. From there, the season goes on with Ed murdering people and digging up graves, turning them into skin suits or furniture.

Meanwhile, throughout the episodes, we flash to things such as the making of “Psycho” and “Texas Chainsaw Massacre,” to the lives of Ilse Koch and Anthony Perkins who played Norman Bates. Both films, especially “Psycho” were influenced by the actions of Ed Gein of course. The inclusion of some figures, however, is rather peculiar. While somewhat likely there is no evidence that Ed Gein knew of Christine Jorgenson. It seems to be a decision by the creators to differentiate Ed Gein, who the film labels a gynophilic despite no evidence, from actual trans people. Along this line, there is no evidence that Gein engaged in necrophilia, that Adeline was involved in his murders, or that he was even contacted by other serial killers. This makes the ending feel hollow looking back on it when you realize that the last episode is almost entirely made up.

One thing that is amazing throughout is the performance of Charlie Hunnam, which is disturbing, but at the same time sympathetic. I would honestly recommend seeing the show just for his performance.

“Monster: The Ed Gein Story” may not be accurate, but it is still an enjoyable watch. It is sad, however, that one should have to read a new article to find out what bits are real and what bits are fake. Overall, I would give the show an 8.4 out of 10.

# A true story of betrayal and deceit

Emma Forst reporter

Netflix’s new true-crime documentary, “Unknown Number: The High School Catfish,” dives into a story so shocking and emotionally complex that it’s hard to believe it actually happened. The film recounts the disturbing ordeal of 13-year-old Lauryn Licari, a teenager from Beal City, Michigan, who endured months of anonymous cyberbullying—only for investigators to uncover that the culprit was her own mother.

Set in the close-knit community of Beal City, the documentary captures the small-town atmosphere where everyone seems to know everyone. In a place where gossip travels fast and privacy is rare, the case sent shock waves through the town. The harassment began in October 2020 when Lauryn started receiving cruel text messages from an unknown number. The messages quickly escalated, attacking her appearance, friendships, and even her relationship with her boyfriend, Owen McKenny.

Unlike most documentaries that rely on actors or dramatized reenactments, this documentary uses the real people involved in the story. Lauryn, Owen, and others who were directly affected appear on screen to recount their experiences. Their vulnerability and raw emotion lend the film a layer of authenticity that scripted performances could never achieve.

After an 11-month break in the messages, the harassment returned in September 2021 with a vengeance. What followed was a relentless, 15-month campaign of digital torment. Daily insults, threats, and manipulative texts filled with personal details only someone close to Lauryn could know. The cruelty and precision of the messages left both the victim and her community terrified and confused.

Eventually, the case drew the attention of local law enforcement and even the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The more investigators dug, the clearer it became that the perpetrator had intimate knowledge of Lauryn’s life. When the truth finally came out, it stunned everyone: The person behind the anonymous messages was Lauryn’s own mother, Kendra Licari.

The reveal is heartbreaking and disturbing. Kendra claimed that she hadn’t started the harassment but admitted to continuing it, offering a series of explanations. She said she liked feeling needed by her daughter and couldn’t stop herself. Her actions appeared to align with symptoms of Munchausen syndrome by proxy. A rare and severe psychological disorder in which a caregiver fabricates or induces harm in someone under their care to gain attention or sympathy.

The documentary handles this revelation with restraint, allowing the audience to process the emotional

gravity rather than overdramatizing it. However, the production’s subdued tone during the big reveal may leave some viewers wanting more impact. What could have been a gasp-worthy, cinematic moment instead feels quiet. Almost too understated for the magnitude of the discovery.

Visually, the editing mirrors the social media world where the story unfolded. Text messages appear on-screen as bubbles, and character introductions mimic the tagging, and mention features of several social media apps.

Despite the pain she endured, Lauryn’s grace in the aftermath stands out. Despite everything, Lauryn expressed forgiveness toward her mother, acknowledging her mental illness and maintaining that she still loves her. The case left lasting scars not only on Lauryn and her family but on the entire Beal City community. The betrayal from within a household shattered trust and left many questioning how such an act could happen so close to home.

Despite minor shortcomings in pacing and emotional delivery, the film succeeds in telling a story that is as haunting as it is thought-provoking. It’s a powerful example of how modern communication can both connect and destroy. Overall, I give the documentary a 4/5.

# Nutella stovetop brownies

Fatimah Bader reporter

A quick and delicious stovetop brownie recipe rich, fudgy, and perfect for when you don’t want to use the oven!

Ingredients

- ½ cup Nutella
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsp unsweetened cocoa powder
- ¼ cup sugar (optional, for extra sweetness)
- 2 tbsp of butter or oil
- 2 tbsp milk
- 1 egg
- ¼ tsp baking powder (optional for a lighter texture)
- Pinch of salt

Optional toppings: chocolate chips, walnuts, or sea salt

Instructions

1. In a bowl, whisk together Nutella, egg, butter (or oil), and milk until smooth.
2. Stir in flour, cocoa powder, sugar, baking powder, and salt. Mix until you have a thick, glossy batter.
3. Place a nonstick skillet or small pan on low heat and grease it lightly with butter or oil. You can line it with parchment paper for easy lifting.
4. Pour the batter evenly into the pan. Cover with a lid and cook on low heat for 10–15 minutes, or until the top looks set and a toothpick comes out with moist crumbs.
5. Let it cool for a few minutes before slicing. It will firm up as it cools.

Tips

- For an extra fudgy version, cook for a slightly shorter time.
- Swirl in a spoon of extra Nutella before cooking for a molten center.
- Serve warm with ice cream or cold milk.

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# Detective runs for school board

Brianna Barnes managing editor

Pittsburg born and raised, JJ Karlinger, is running for the USD 250 school board this coming election on Nov. 4. He works for the Frontenac Police Department where he is a sergeant detective.

Growing up in Pittsburg, Karlinger went to Lakeside Elementary, then to Pittsburg Middle School, then on to Pittsburg High School. This experience was very important, he said, which is a part of his reason for running for the school board.

"A lot of it has to do, I think, with my experience growing up here," Karlinger said. "I kind of want to give that to the kids that are coming back up. I had such a great experience really, just being born and raised here in Pittsburg's been so good to me. It has sort of been a little bit of a theme in my life. A theme to try and make this area better, whether it is through law enforcement or this. That's what kind of caused me to do it after talking to a lot of teachers and kind of getting input from them. I feel like I'm doing it for the right reason. I don't have any kind of axe to grind or anything like that. I just want to make sure that I try to set everyone up for success."

A major thing for Karlinger is to work on what has already been established, he said.

"We have kids that have gotten scholarships, gone to MIT and other prestigious universities," Karlinger said. "Our theatre program has amazing shows. Middle school has an esports program, so we just need to keep on building what we have with that, then continue to bring in more community. They've done a good job with that so far, the district has. The partnerships with Pitt State, the city, other businesses, and organizations, I just want to continue to foster and build on that."

Karlinger stressed that he wants students to feel supported in their school years and beyond.

"I could not imagine life without the Pittsburg schools," Karlinger said. "You're talking to a hometown guy, so it is like we sort of bleed purple in my house. To me, it's a rich tradition. You don't see a lot of purple dragons running around outside of Pittsburg. But I think it's important for the kids to know they have a bright future, and we can support them in that way. So, when they get beyond grade school, high school, they know that Pittsburg is still going to be here to support them and that we're rooting for them."

Part of Karlinger's goals is related to his history as a detective. He wants to ask questions and gather the information.

"I'd come in with eyes wide open, willing to take in whatever information is available to us, and then make a good decision based off that," Karlinger said. "That is a lot of what I do in law enforcement. I'm a detective, so I like to ask questions. I like to find out information and then make decisions based on the information that I expected. So, I think that is what I want to do. Just bring in the information before we make any kind of decision and what's going to be best for the teachers, for the students and then for the community as well."

As a part of the community, Pitt State and Pittsburg High School sports, and sports in general are very important to his "sports oriented" family," he said. Karlinger entered the police academy in 2008 and got engaged to his wife, Angela, at his police academy graduation. They now have a son, Cash, who is 12 years old.

For this year's election, Karlinger's hope is for people to vote, he said.

"The biggest thing is I want people to vote," Karlinger said. "Sure, I hope they vote for me, but if they don't, they go out and vote, then they're doing their part. I appreciate that."

# Green Bandana Project brings mental health awareness to Pitt State

Chance Fields reporter

When the Green Bandana Project came to Pittsburg State University, it became more than just another mental health program. It turned into a way for students and staff to connect, start conversations, and remind each other that nobody has to deal with tough times alone.

Jesse Briscoe, one of the faculty leads for the project and assistant director of First Year Programs, first learned about it while working at Missouri Southern. There, he met student athlete Riley Laver, who was promoting the project through events and outreach. Her passion for mental health stuck with him.

"I fell in love with this initiative," Briscoe said. "In all my years working in housing, mental health has always been a concern. I've responded to suicide attempts and students considering suicide, so this is something very personal and important to me."

After returning to Pitt State, Briscoe worked with former area coordinator Lukas Metropoulos and other staff members to bring the project to campus. They launched it in the spring and started offering training sessions for students, faculty, and staff. Since then, 31 students and 31 faculty and staff members have completed both the Green Bandana orientation and Question, Persuade, Refer suicide prevention training.

The program's goal is to help people learn how to start tough conversations and connect others with professional help.

"This training isn't about becoming a therapist," Briscoe said. "It's about learning how to ask questions, listen, and guide someone toward the help they need."

Freshman, Jay-Lynn Bingham said she decided to take part because of a personal experience.

"When I was younger, my aunt died by suicide,"

she said. "That made me realize how important it is to talk about mental health and support people who are struggling."

Bingham first heard about the Green Bandana Project on Instagram and was drawn to its message.

"The part that stood out most was when the instructor talked about people-first language," Bingham said. "It reminded me that how we say something can matter just as much as what we say."

The training lasts about two hours and includes both the Green Bandana orientation and QPR intervention training. Participants learn to recognize warning signs, talk openly, and connect people to help.

"I feel more confident now in supporting someone who might be struggling," Bingham said. "Everyone faces their own challenges, but nobody has to go through them alone."

Briscoe said the project's main goal is to make talking about mental health normal and to remind students that it's OK to ask for help.

"It can be scary to ask someone if they're thinking about suicide," Briscoe said. "But if we can teach people how to ask and listen, we can save lives."

The Green Bandana Project continues to grow at Pitt State, with more training sessions planned this year. Briscoe hopes that when people see green bandanas around campus, they recognize them as a sign of care and support.

"When you see someone with that green bandana, it means they're someone you can talk to," Briscoe said. "It's about creating a campus community where everyone looks out for each other."

# Enrollment grows as campus momentum builds at Pitt State

Chance Fields reporter

Pittsburg State University is continuing to grow, with freshman enrollment up nearly 12% this fall. Administrators say the increase reflects years of effort from faculty, staff, and students, along with new scholarships and stronger support systems.

Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Success Karl Stumo said the university's success starts with its people.

"One of the most important things that moves the needle is always our people," Stumo said. "Our admissions staff has done a great job visiting high schools, going to college fairs, and staying in touch with students. Our marketing and communications teams have been great partners, and our faculty and student leaders have really stepped up to connect with prospective students."

This fall, Pitt State's total enrollment reached 5,803 students, up from 5,774 last year. Freshman enrollment grew to 1,042, and retention climbed to around 77%, up from about 73% or 74% four years ago. Stumo credited the Great Gorilla Scholarship Program as one of the biggest factors driving the increase.

"Our scholarship levels have increased through that program," Stumo said. "Affordability and the work of our people have made a big difference."

Stumo described this as a "time of momentum and growth" for the university, pointing to its focus on student success and community partnerships. Even with the positive numbers, Stumo said Pitt State is staying realistic about long-term growth, especially with fewer high school graduates in the region. Still, the goal is to reach 6,500 total students in the coming years, through both undergraduate and graduate enrollment.

Retention has also improved thanks to changes in advising. Two years ago, the university created a centralized advising system in the Smith Center for

Student Success. Stumo said that move has paid off.

"To have a dedicated group of academic advisors helping students all day, every day – that group is having a major positive impact on our retention rates," Stumo said.

Events like Rumble in the Jungle have also played a big role in attracting new students. This year's event on Nov. 1, is expected to draw more than 1,100 guests, the largest turnout yet.

"Those events have gotten bigger every year," Stumo said. "Students come to learn about programs, take a tour, and even attend a football game. It's a great way to show them what being part of the Gorilla family feels like."

Another new effort, the Pitt State Family Portal, launched this fall to help families stay informed and connected. The platform gives parents and guardians easy access to important dates, events, and campus updates.

"We want parents and students to be on the same page," Stumo said. "This is a central location where families can get the information they need, and it strengthens their connection to the university."

When measuring success, Stumo said he looks at four main areas: the number of students, academic quality, diversity, and financial stability.

"I'm convinced Pitt State is one of the highest-value choices a high school student can make," Stumo said. "Value means affordability and quality. You can afford to attend, you'll get a great education, and you'll have an incredible college experience."

Stumo said the university's focus moving forward is to build on this progress and help even more students succeed at Pittsburg State.

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# Gorillas grill Griffons



Kiros Martin, a redshirt freshman studying biology, blocks opposing Missouri Western team members from getting the ball. The Gorillas were successful against Missouri Western's Griffons. | Photo courtesy of Derek Livingston

Curtis Meyer sports editor

Pitt State extended their winning streak to six games this weekend as they defeated the Missouri Western Griffons 44-20. Things remained close, as the game went very back and forth between the Gorillas and Griffons, but Pitt State would prevail, scoring 31 points in the second half to come out with the win. The Gorillas are currently ranked #12 in the country, as eyes start to look to the late half of the season playoff push. Pitt State has only one more ranked opponent on their schedule, as Northwest Missouri sits at #19.

The Gorillas would get off to a slow start, receiving the ball to begin the game. Senior quarterback Jackson Berry would start off on the wrong foot, throwing an interception on just his second throw. The Griffons would drive down the field but missed a 39-yard field goal.

Miscues would continue to hurt the Gorillas, as an unforced fumble gave the ball right back to Missouri Western. The teams traded possessions before Pitt State found some momentum late in the half, scoring a 31-yard field goal to take a 3-0 lead into the second quarter.

Missouri Western would answer, putting together a solid drive that ended with a 16-yard touchdown, pulling them up 7-3. This would galvanize the Gorillas, who responded with their first touchdown of the day. Junior running back Zahmari Palode-Gary would find pay dirt from two yards out, putting the Gorillas back in front. The Gorillas would score a 50-yard field goal as time expired, taking a 13-7

lead into the half.

The Gorillas kept the momentum, stopping the Griffons on a fourth and one, and driving down the field. Palode-Gary would get his second touchdown of the night, scoring from eight yards out to make it 20-7. Missouri Western would respond quickly by scoring another touchdown, but the Gorillas would score a 56-yard field goal, followed by a forced fumble recovery that set up another Palode-Gary touchdown, this time from three yards out. Pitt State would lead 30-14 going into the final quarter.

The Griffons would attempt to claw their way back into the game, scoring a touchdown early in the fourth quarter, but a missed field goal attempt left them still behind 30-20. The Gorillas would then chew clock, engineering a 13-play, 75-yard drive that ended with a 17-yard touchdown pass from Berry to grad student wide receiver Jaelon Travis, making it 37-20. The Griffons would go for it on fourth down, but another fumble recovered by the Gorilla defense set up the offense for the final punch, a 17-yard rushing touchdown by junior wide receiver Greyson Holbert. The defense would continue its work, stopping another fourth down conversion attempt, allowing Pitt State to take a knee and end the game.

The Gorillas will have a bye week, and they now have extra time to prepare for the last home game of the season on Nov. 1, when the Gorillas will host the Missouri Southern Lions at the annual hall of fame game.

# Gorilla Rugby



William Pattison, freshman, inside centre, defends the ball while running it downfield. The Pittsburg State John Brown Rugby match was cut short due to weather. | Photo Emma Forst



Dezmond Robinson, freshman, openside flanker, escapes a tackle while gaining ground downfield. Pitt State Gorillahead Rugby played John Brown University on Oct 18th. | Photo Emma Forst

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# Hispanic Music Festival closes with unified concert

Lauryn Gilfillan reporter

Almost 200 performers got together Wednesday night to fill the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts with some color, culture, and music in the Hispanic Music Festival's final concert for the month-long celebration.

The free concert was held on Oct. 12, and was a collaboration between three local ensembles: The Pittsburg High School Choir, Jopara Ensemble, and the Pittsburg Hispanic Banda. They brought performers of all ages for a celebration of unity, music, and heritage.

Attendees filled almost every seat in the hall, while informational tables lined up in the lobby as attendees entered the venue.

The chorus was directed by Susan Laushman, a vocal teacher at Pittsburg High School; Dr. Ramiro Miranda, an assistant professor at PSU's Music Department, and the director of Jopara; and Isaac Hernandez directing the Pittsburg Hispanic Banda. All three of these directors are graduates of Pitt's music program as well.

The Jopara ensemble featured Miranda on violin, Dr. Alejandro Avila on piano, Irene Diaz Gill on cello, and Aleia Gonzalez on the guitar. Combined with the large multigenerational choir and the Banda, the performance was able to blend folk, contemporary, and classical music that showed the diversity of Hispanic music traditions.

"This has been an authentic way to dive into culture," Karla Burns, Miss Kansas 2025 said, addressing the

audience before the concert began. "Today we will experience what the power of music can do. I see the beauty of sharing who we are."

Burns' speech imitated the evening's message: Sharing. She talked about the importance of sharing tradition, music, food, and stories, while also talking about the pride and resilience of the Hispanic community.

"Being Hispanic today means standing on the shoulders of those who came before us," Burns said. "It means that our roots don't hold us down; they ground us. We remind the world that unity is recognizing that we are stronger together."

"This festival has shown us that music connects us all," Burns said in her closing statement. "And when we share who we are, we make our community stronger."

"This concert is a perfect example of what can happen when a community comes together to celebrate culture," Frida Herrera, a co-director of the Hispanic Heritage Month, said. "It's about celebrating who we are and where we come from through the universal language of music."

"The combination of all three groups on one stage was so powerful," said Tyne Ellis, a student majoring in social work who attended the concert. "It was a lot more packed than I thought it would be, but it was a really good performance."

The night marked a culmination of a month both on and off campus to celebrate Hispanic culture.



Susan Laushman conducts on stage during "Music Across Borders," an event hosted by Hispanics of Today at the Bicknell Center on October 15.

| Photo by Bryan Gonzalez

## Opportunities expand for students



Freshman automotive student Emery Weiser stands alongside the Head of Human Resources Dr. Lori Scott Dreiling for career day activities.

| Photo by Christopher Law

Emily Ford design chief

Tuesday, Oct. 14, students of Pittsburg State University and employers from all over the country gathered in the Crimson and Gold Ballrooms of the Overman Student Center for one of the biggest networking opportunities of the semester, hosted by the Office of Career Development.

The Career Fair is an event open to all majors across campus. This takes place once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester, allowing students to connect "It's an all-majors fair that any employers and any students are welcome to come to," Kim Hull, the director of the Office of Career Development, said. "We host one in the fall and one in the spring."

This event gives students across campus the opportunity to speak with employers about what opportunities they have in a way that is not just an e-mail.

"It gives students an opportunity to get in front of the employers, to talk to them about opportunities that they have," Hull said. "Whether that's internships or full-time jobs, or just a really good chance to network and connect with those individuals that they might have a future with. They're right here on campus. They're not

having to e-mail, they're not having to go to their companies, they're right here on campus. It allows them to talk to them and communicate with them here."

This event also has an impact on the employers themselves. Students at Pitt State have a great reputation, whether employers are looking for a great work ethic or the student's ability to apply the skills they learn in the classroom to the workplace.

"The employers here come to campus with the sole purpose to network with the Pitt State students," Hull said, "Pitt State students have a great reputation, and they want to hire them for various reasons, whether that's the things they're learning in the classroom or the work ethic that they come with. They're here with just the same purpose as the students; to connect and to create those opportunities and just to get those future and overall connections for the future."

Over 100 employers came to the career fair with opportunities available for almost every different scenario. Refreshments were available, along with souvenirs found at nearly every table for interacting with students to take home with them.

## SEK Symphony opens with Danzas Latinas performance

Lauryn Gilfillan reporter

The Southeast Kansas Symphony began its 110th season this Sunday afternoon with a celebration of Hispanic heritage, performing Danzas Latinas at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts as the last installment of the Hispanic Music Festival.

The concert featured classical and newer selections that were inspired by the music and dance traditions of Latin America. The director, Dr. Ramiro Miranda, led the performances to mark the closing event of the Hispanic Music Festival, and the first concert of the symphony's Season to Dance series. The symphony performed 11 pieces and was also recorded by the Bicknell Center for the audiences to watch on YouTube.

"We're both closing and opening at the same time," Miranda told the attendees. "We are thrilled to be here. We have an exciting program for you. This season is our season of dance, and we celebrate many, many years of Southeast Kansas music."

The program has included music inspired by Argentina, Paraguay, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Cuba, blending melodies of Latin American folk and dance traditions with orchestral textures.

"The Southeast Kansas Symphony has a long and amazing history," Miranda said. "We're honored to be sharing this

music with you, and to begin another season of these performances."

Miguel Pacheco, the guest musician, performed at last year's festival as well. He returned to Pitt this season with an accompaniment from the symphony. As he's known for his virtuosic repertoire and stage presence, Pacheco entertained us once again with his technical skills.

Greg Campbell, a recent collaborator with Miranda, also joined the concert to help conduct several pieces. Miranda introduced Campbell to the attendees by reflecting on their experiences together.

"We actually met in Cleveland; we were doing a workshop," Miranda said. "It was a wonderful week working with him, and we've been collaborating with him for a week here as well."

The Southeast Kansas Symphony has been a fixture for the regional arts community for nearly a century, as it aimed to engage audiences of all ages through traditional, and innovative programming. This season, they focused on dance, highlighting the group's versatility and commitment to celebrating different cultures.

"All of the symphony's concerts this season will feature music connected to dance in some form, ranging from classical to contemporary works," Miranda said.



In the center of the string section, the cello players drew their bows in steady harmony, their deep, rounded tone adding warmth and emotional weight to the Southeast Kansas Symphony's performance at the Bicknell. | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez

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The Collegio wants to read your letters and guest columns!

# Axe Library closes at 11, students outraged

Emma Forst reporter

Tuesday, Oct. 7, Axe Library announced that its doors would now close at 11 p.m. starting Monday, Oct. 13. This is three hours earlier than the usual 1 a.m. weekday closing time. While this might seem like a small adjustment on paper, for many Pittsburg State students, it is a major setback.

The timing of this change couldn't be worse. Midterms are in full swing, projects are piling up, and students are seeking quiet, reliable spaces to focus. Instead, the university's central study hub has decided to cut hours right when students need it most.

The Axe Library isn't just another building on campus. It's a vital resource for Gorillas of all kinds. Whether you're an on-campus resident, a commuter juggling work and classes, or even a professor preparing lectures, the library provides an accessible, focused environment that's hard to replace. Closing earlier means students lose valuable late-night study time that many rely on.

A petition has been started by Luke Battagler, a sophomore, majoring in biology education, to advocate for the students and, in hope, revert the closing weekday hours of the library back to 1 a.m.

"My hope with the petition was to show (Student Government Association), and the President of the University that students are upset with this change and that we should switch back to the old hours," Battagler said. "Alternatively, if we are unable to keep the whole building open till one, what options do we have for students who need a space to do homework other than their room? Taking away time hurts those students who are there that late every day. Students are here for many different reasons, but school is all of our number one reason and we should always focus on helping our students, not hindering them."

According to Battagler, many students are in support of the petition. He has heard foremost from students.

"The petition ended last Wednesday (Oct. 15) when I turned it into SGA. At that time, I had gotten 359 signatures," Battagler said. "(Students) felt that it was unfair to take away student resources during midterms without much warning. I had many students I had never met come and ask to sign the petition because of how upsetting the new hours were. Many, including

myself at the time, didn't even know why the hours were being cut".

Hannah Gouvion, a sophomore majoring in Psychology, says she utilizes the library half of the day of the week.

"I am in the library probably four to five days a week, depending on the time of the semester," Gouvion said.

When asked what time she is in the library during the day, Gouvion said she is there twice a day, often until closing time.

"Honestly, I am normally there two times a day. Normally from two to five, and then I come back from seven to close (1 a.m.)."

Gouvion said she is feeling unhappy about the new hours.

"I am not happy," Gouvion said. "I meet with classmates who live on-campus and off for a study group."

Gouvion said that with the new hours, she feels as though she has less understanding of her class work.

"(Without the library) I normally just end up going back to my dorm and studying on my own," Gouvion said. "And I feel like I don't understand it as much when I could be talking it through with my classmates."

Her experience reflects a larger problem. Study groups, collaborative learning, and late-night research sessions are all essential parts of academic success, especially during demanding weeks like midterms and finals. Taking away these hours limits those opportunities and, frankly, sends the wrong message about supporting student success.

Budget cuts, staffing shortages, or operational reasons may be behind the change, but the university should prioritize student needs above convenience. A strong academic environment depends on access, and the library is at the heart of that access.

Students deserve spaces that support their learning, not barriers that make it harder. If Pittsburg State wants to promote academic excellence, it starts by keeping the lights on at Axe Library. Especially when those late-night study sessions mean the difference between stress and success.

**Monday, November 3rd is the last day to drop an individual classes without withdrawing from school for the semester. To drop a class, go to the Registrar's office, Room 103, or call 620-235-4200. Office hours are 8am to 4:30pm, Monday - Friday.**

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## EARLY ENROLLMENT

Early enrollment for the 2026 spring and summer semesters will begin Sunday, November 2, 2025 for students currently enrolled at Pittsburg State University. All students can enroll at their designated time or any time after that time. Students having questions about enrollment should inquire at the Registrar's Office, 103 Russ Hall.

The Spring and Summer 2026 Schedule of Classes is now available on the PSU Home Page at the following URL: <http://www.pittstate.edu/>. From Students, click on Schedule of Classes.

## Checklist to prepare for enrollment:

- 1) Meet with advisor and ask for advisement number and together select your 2026 Spring and Summer classes.
- 2) Please update your demographics on-line through GUS by clicking on your Degree Audit.
- 3) Clear any HOLDS which will prevent you from enrolling.
- 4) Make certain that your anticipated graduation term is accurate.
- 5) If you are a spring or summer graduate, make certain you apply to graduate.

Students may enroll according to the following schedule:

Early Enrollment for 2026 Spring/Summer Semester	Enrollment Start Times	Credit Hours Completed
Sunday, November 2nd	12:00pm	Masters/Eds
Graduates, Seniors, & Juniors (Graduate Exchange Students)	12:30pm	120+ Hours
	1:00pm	119-115
	2:00pm	114-110
	2:30pm	109-105
Help Line available Sunday only 620-235-4200	3:00pm	104-100
	4:00pm	99-95
	4:30pm	94-90
	5:00pm	89-85
	5:30pm	84-80
	6:00pm	79-75
	6:30pm	74-70
	7:00pm	69-65
	7:30pm	64-60

## Monday, November 3rd

Continuation of Graduate Students and UG with 60+ hours completed

Tuesday, November 4th Sophomores (Undergraduate Exchange Students)	Enrollment Start Times	Credit Hours Completed
	5:00am	59-55
	5:30am	54-50
	6:00am	49-45
	6:30am	44-40
	7:00am	39-35
	7:30am	34-30
Wednesday, November 5th Freshmen	5:00am	29-25
	5:30am	24-20
	6:00am	19-15
	6:30am	14-10
	7:00am	9-5
	7:30am	4-0

## Thursday, November 6th &amp; Friday, November 7th -

Continuous Enrollment for currently enrolled Grad-Freshman  
Monday, November 10th - Transfer Students

# ‘We all love this community, why aren’t we all wanting to run?’

Joshua Smith editor-in-chief

**Editor’s Note:** This article is not an endorsement, and the timing is not intentional. The Collegio reached out to candidates and area party leaders on both sides of the political spectrum for the City Commission race. Jackson Bertoncino and Isaiah Harris were interviewed in the June 27 issue of the Collegio; available Republican candidates along with speech highlights were featured in a photo spread of the July 11 issue of the Collegio.

Stu Hite, former Pittsburg city mayor, current city of Pittsburg Commissioner, and current Pittsburg State University police chief, is running for reelection to the City Commission on Nov. 4. Hite is motivated by service to the community and is proud of the economic development during his time on the commission while acknowledging the need for improvements in housing and childcare. Hite received recent criticism from some of his fellow fiscally conservative Republicans when he voted to pass a budget proposal that would increase taxes, but he maintains that he voted his conscience as no alternative plans were raised.

Hite said his motivations to run for reelection have not changed from his motivations four years ago. He wants to serve the community, represent the population of Pittsburg, and be a “good fiscal steward,” closing with challenging others to serve the community as well.

“I ran four years ago with the idea that I just wanted to serve the community in another way,” Hite said. “I’m trying to be a voice for the majority and best represent the almost 21,000 people in Pittsburg. Also wanting to do my part to be a good fiscal steward of taxpayer dollars, having worked for the taxpayers my entire career for 30 years at the sheriff’s office, we answer to our constituents. We all love this community, why aren’t we all wanting to run?”

When asked what made Hite different from the other candidates, Hite said that all of the candidates care about Pittsburg, they just differ on why and how.

“I think all six people that are running care for our community,” Hite said. “I think our ‘why’ might be different. We may have different opinions on how we get to what’s best for our community, but I think most of us are doing it out of the goodness of our hearts and not for personal gain. I believe we can all disagree, but we shouldn’t be disagreeable.”

In a recent Sept. 8, City Commission meeting, the commission voted on a budget proposal that would cause an increase in taxes to cover the budget. As a Republican running for reelection on the commission, Hite received some criticism for his decision to approve the budget. Hite said the budget was known ahead of time and was not excessive.

“We (the commissioners) find out about the asks that

each department head is going to ask for on what we call a ‘working day’ and we had that in an evening back in May,” Hite said. “We do that every year. That’s when we’re first told by each department head, ‘this is on our horizon,’ and we (the commissioners) can go around the room and debate that. It’s not like our department heads are asking for the moon, they’re asking for things that Pittsburg needs.”

Hite said that commission knew an increase would be needed in order to approve the budget, but no one on the commission suggested any cuts or alternatives. It should be noted, however, that some changes were made to the budget the day of the vote, causing line-item numbers to be incorrect despite the overall numbers remaining the same.

“So that’s May, and we voted in September,” Hite said. “That’s five months that we as commissioners, all five of us, had to start constructing an alternative to doing what is being asked of us. Then sometime in June we were presented with a proposed budget from the city, so roughly three months we’ve had the actual proposed budget. Not once did anybody on the commission, myself included, not once did anybody come up with any kind of alternative to that budget or raise any questions in public or otherwise to my knowledge. There was no discussion on what we should cut or reduce. So that not being done, you get to September to the budget meeting and I’m not sure what anyone’s decision would have been with no alternative other than to approve it. So had I given it a thought? Absolutely. Did I come up with any viable solutions on not approving the proposed budget? No, I didn’t, and I didn’t hear any from anybody else.”

When asked about accomplishments during his time in office, Hite redirected the accomplishments as belonging to the commission as a whole. The commission was able to bring in \$95 million in economic development to help grow the city with an investment of \$3 million.

“We as a commission, approved \$95 million in new economic development in the City of Pittsburg,” Hite said. “Companies that would come (to Pittsburg) make requests through the Economic Development Advisory Committee to get up to 10% of the cost of their project reimbursed through a revolving loan fund that can only be done to reinvest in economic development. We invested \$3 million of that \$95 million, that’s a pretty darn good return on your investment. All those investments are creating jobs, more customers, businesses, and bringing in more people to our town. That helps offset the costs of streets, law enforcement, fire, public works, water, sewer, things like that.”

The city has also added a trash service, which while viewed as “unfair competition” by some in the

community, has grown to service 3,287 stops.

“We started a trash service from scratch last year,” Hite said. “It only took about six months from conception to implementing it. We started with two brand new trucks and just added a third this summer. We have grown in a very short time to 3,287 stops. Mostly private households (3,012), but businesses, too (275). We aren’t trying to take over the trash business, just answering the complaints of citizens. We’re simply another carrier or option.

Two main areas that Hite views as needing improvement are housing supply and childcare. Hite says that the city is making “great strides” in both areas, but there is still work to be done.

“I think everybody agrees that there’s a housing shortage in Pittsburg, and we’ve made great strides in increasing incentives for new builders to come in,” Hite said. “We have torn down properties that were deemed unsafe and in the last four years we’ve found 124, I believe, new permits. Out with the old in with the new. Childcare was another major thing, and we have made great strides. The Washington School Project is getting ready to come online any time; over 200 kids are going to be able to go to preschool or daycare there. So that’s a huge step in the right direction. There’s still work to be done, and we need to identify more ways to appeal to other folks to start a daycare and provide childcare for working parents.”

One of the largest projects the city is currently working on is replacing outdated water infrastructure that Hite characterized as “failing” and “maybe past the end of its life.”

“Our water and sewer lines are, some of them, 100 years old and more, and we’ve done a good job of being proactive in replacing them, but that doesn’t come at a small cost,” Hite said. “I think we haven’t talked a lot about the new wastewater treatment plant that’s being constructed. That is going to be monumental not just for our children but for our grandchildren. That should take us 50 years into the future. The current one is outdated, it’s substandard by many federal regulation standards. It passes, but we know that it’s not going to pass by future standards. One of the things that we did that got overlooked, the city staff said, ‘we were going to raise the sewer rates on people’s water bills,’ by, I think it was 13%, this year. But prior to the budget hearing night, they made the decision, ‘we’re going to cut that back to more like a 3% increase,’ and some of that is going to be paid for from reserves that are in the city so some of that is offset. Not passing that along directly in the form of an increase was sort of overlooked in that whole tax discussion.”

## Little Green Men

Staff Report

On Oct. 23, “The Little Green Men,” a band consisting entirely of Pittsburg State University students, released their first album, “Unidentified Funky Object.”

The album was produced, mixed, mastered, and engineered by keyboardist and vocalist Jude Wolfe, a senior studying music composition and media production, with assistance from Sachio Nang, a featured guest artist who plays the alto saxophone. The cover art was hand painted by guitarist and vocalist, Evan Harries, a senior studying 2D art.

Other band members include: Jocelyn Goodwin, a senior studying music performance on tenor saxophone and vocals; Jack Stefanoni, a junior studying music education on drums and percussion; Gavin Burdette, a senior studying music performance on bass; Joe Lancaster, a senior studying music education on trumpet and percussion; and Peyton Winnett a junior studying music education on baritone saxophone.

“Unidentified Funky Object” has over 50 minutes worth of content across 13 completely original tracks, which include the following:

- Intro
- Nights Apart
- Andromeda Men
- You’ve Got a Grip on Me
- Strange, Strange Love (feat. Sachio Nang)
- Future Fiction
- King Funk
- Interlude
- Ready to Ride
- Beggin’ for the Boogie
- Second Place
- City Slicker
- We Love Jack Stefanoni

Additional information can be found at [www.thelittlegreenmen.com](http://www.thelittlegreenmen.com)

### CONT. FROM PROTEST PAGE 1

“Blaise, Christian Blaise Jacks, the treasurer of the Young Dems, did a lot of the organizing,” Bertoncino said. “This was going to be the national ‘No Kings’ Day and so there was some buzz about wanting to do a protest. Given the fact that the elections were coming up, I was the one who suggested that we have a ‘No Kings’ event here and that we frame it as a ‘protect the vote’ type thing and use it as a ‘get out to vote’ opportunity. It went really well; Blaise and all the Young Dems really came together.”

Bertoncino expressed the importance of protests and even though some may doubt their effectiveness, he sees Trump’s reactions to the protests as proof that they are making an impact.

“Protests like these are important,” Bertoncino said. “I think right now a lot of people feel that with everything going on, that there’s not a lot they can do, and they wonder, ‘oh, are these events really doing anything? Are we actually changing things?’ And we are. There’s a reason why Trump and his allies have been throwing shade at these protests for the last couple weeks. They know that what they’re doing is unpopular. There’s more of us than there are of them, and when people get mobilized and galvanized, that is how we make change. So, I’m hoping people realize the power of collective organizing, protesting, and community. That’s what this is really about: the community coming together to protect each other, to uplift each other, and to send a message that this is our country too. Truly loving your country isn’t standing by and watching as these atrocities are happening, it’s speaking up and showing up.”

### CONT. FROM RESEARCH PAGE 1

“PSU has been very supportive,” Rahman said. “The opportunities here have helped me grow as a researcher and build confidence in my ideas.”

Looking ahead, Rahman plans to continue refining his fiber-making process and expanding its antimicrobial potential. His goal is to publish his results in a scientific journal and one day see his lactose fibers tested in clinical settings for wound dressing and drug delivery.

Rahman extended advice to other graduate students.

“Don’t be afraid to put your work out there,” Rahman said. “Even if it’s not perfect, presenting it helps you grow and gain confidence.”



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# Community coming together



The Crawford County Young Democrats organized a protest in downtown Pittsburg on Oct. 18, as a part of the nation-wide “No Kings” demonstrations. The crowd at Pritchett Pavilion was estimated to be 300 people, made up of Pittsburg State University students, alumni, and Pittsburg community members.. | Photo by Joshua Smith



Chidera Anyabolu, a freshman majoring in graphic communication, looks through his camera while documenting his experience at the protest. Anyabolu said that he is not into politics, but after some research, Anyabolu found that the message resonated with him. | Photo by Joshua Smith



At the Power Tool Pumpkin Carving event on Oct. 15, hosted by the National Association of Women in Construction outside the steel lab, students gathered with drills and saws in hand, carving pumpkins with sparks, laughter, and plenty of fall spirit. | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez



Event organizer Erin Jordan stands with Karlee Shewey at the Power Tool Pumpkin Carving event, both smiling as they watch students carve pumpkins with drills and saws outside the steel lab. | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez



Keaton Mallicoat, a Management and Psychology major, hauls heavy cinder blocks during the Fall Into Service Home Depot Clean Up, lending muscle to the group's efforts to refresh and organize the area. Photo by Bryan Gonzalez | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez



On Sunday, Oct. 19, members of the Student Government Association joined the Fall Into Service, Home Depot Clean Up, spending the morning picking up trash, trimming bushes, and restoring the area as part of their commitment to campus and community service. | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez



Nursing major Natalie Garland and Elementary Education major Charlie Judd work side-by-side during the Fall Into Service Home Depot Clean Up, pitching in to clear brush and pick up debris as part of Sunday's volunteer effort. | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez