



Gorillas dominate in homecoming win

Curtis Meyer sports editor

The Gorillas took their sixth win in a row in dominant fashion last Saturday, defeating the Washburn Ichabods 34-10. Both defense and offense contributed greatly in the win, with the Gorilla defense holding Washburn to just 26 rushing yards, while the offense rushed for 260 yards and 3 touchdowns on the road.

“We just stop the run, and they can’t do anything against Pitt,” redshirt senior linebacker Steven Ward said after the game.

The Gorillas got off to a quick lead, scoring a 42-yard field goal on their first drive after holding the Ichabods on the first drive of the game. The Gorillas forced another quick three and out, and then marched down the field, culminating the drive in a 17-yard touchdown run by senior quarterback Jackson Berry.

“We knew we were getting a good football player, but unfortunately, he missed most of spring ball with that knee. Fall camp was really his first rep in there, and I think just over the last couple of weeks seeing him get comfortable in the offense,” Anthony said about Berry.

Washburn would answer quickly, scoring at the beginning of the second quarter off of an 8-yard touchdown pass to make it 10-7, but this was as close as the Ichabods would get. Berry would find pay dirt a second time, running from 19 yards out to make it 17-10. Both teams would trade possessions before half, with Pitt State ending up with the ball with just 16 seconds remaining. Instead of kneeling and taking the lead into halftime, the Gorillas dialed up a 75-yard touchdown pass from Berry to grad student wide receiver Jaelon Travis, putting

the Gorillas up 24-10.

“I felt like we could attack the sideline a bit, get Austin in position to kick a long field goal. They called a great play and executed it at a really high level. It was huge scoring that touchdown right before halftime and then getting the ball right back after half,” said Anthony.

Neither team could make much headway in the third, as both offenses struggled to find their footing. A pair of fumbles on the Gorillas’ only two possessions of the third quarter ended promising drives, giving the ball back to Washburn to start the fourth.

Washburn would capitalize with their final points of the day at the beginning of the fourth, scoring a 34-yard field goal to make it 10-24. Pitt State would eat time off the clock, scoring a 33-yard field goal, before the Gorilla defense would create an interception, which Pitt State was able to turn into the last points of the game. Fourth and goal from eight yards out, the Gorillas lined up in kicking formation to attempt a field goal, but junior kicker Austin Schmitt instead caught the ball and ran right, scoring his first ever career touchdown at any level.

“Late in the season it comes down to who’s healthy and who has the best special teams. With our special teams, we are going to get the job done no matter the score,” Schmitt said.

Pitt State will take their 34-10 win into next week, when they go on the road to play Missouri Western Saturday night at 6 p.m.



Pittsburg State sophomore defensive back No. 14 Quincy Miner makes an impressive interception against Washburn, turning the play around and giving the Gorillas a big lead during the Oct. 11 game at Carnie Smith Stadium. | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez

Students recognized for Associate’s

Lauren Gilfillan reporter

Wednesday, Oct. 8, Pittsburg State University celebrated students earning their Associate of Arts degrees during the Conferring Celebration held at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts. The event recognized students who completed their degrees in the spring and summer of 2025. This event was hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences, the Kelce College of Business, the College of Education, and the College of Technology. The short program was followed by a reception with refreshments and treats afterward.

This event marked another milestone for the program, which awarded its first associate degrees in February 2024. Each graduate was given white, gold, and crimson honor cords that symbolize their accomplishment. Students were also provided instructions on how to download their |diplomas online.

“You represent the fourth set of students to receive this degree,” Dr. Jon Bartlow, dean of students, said in his opening speech. “You’re celebrating this degree because you’ve earned it.”

Bartlow also expressed his gratitude to faculty and staff for their leadership and dedication to student success.

Following Bartlow’s speech, Pitt State President,

Dr. Thomas Newsom, took the stage to congratulate the students.

“It may not be what you came to Pitt State to do, but it’s a big deal,” Newsom said. “That’s what this milestone represents: persistence.”

Newsom said that every achievement on students’ journey forward matters, emphasizing the importance of the small, consistent steps toward their larger goals. Newsom ended his speech with encouragement for students to embrace this next chapter in their lives.

“This place is full of people who lift each other up,” Newsom said. “Faculty who care, staff who go the extra mile, friends who study and laugh together. You’ve already proven that you can do tough things. You’ve proven your ability to finish what you started, and that means there’s nothing out there that you can’t accomplish. Life is truly full of new chapters, and this one is the start of a very exciting story.”

Provost Dr. Susan Bon also spoke at the ceremony, reminding the students to take pride in what they had achieved and encouraged students to reflect on their perseverance and resilience.

“You’ve made it this far in your educational journey, and you continue to pursue,” Bon said. “You’ve hit a very big milestone; you’ve made

an opportunity for yourselves that creates a big difference in all aspects of your lives. So, pause for a minute and celebrate. It’s also proof that you have what it takes to continue.”

Bon said that each student had overcome personal and academic challenges to reach where they are.

“You’ve already faced the obstacles and overcome your fears and any forces that seemed too hard to push through,” Bon said. “Nobody can ever take this away from you; you have the skills and perseverance. Life is a big journey, but it also has a lot of opportunities to celebrate and find joy.”

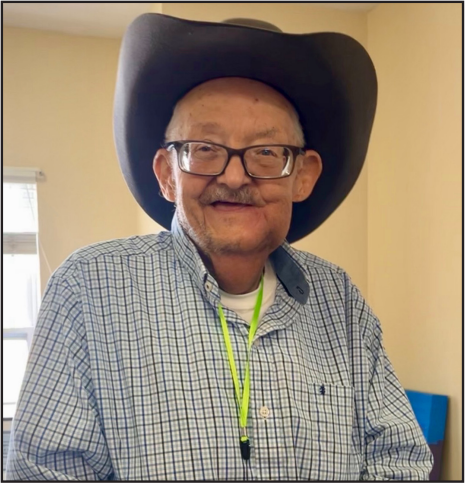
After Bon’s speech, Bartlow returned to the podium to thank Newsom, the Kansas Board of Regents, and the university’s faculty and staff for their unwavering support. Newsom then stepped up once more to perform what he said was his favorite job as president.

“I’ve only been president for 31 days, and I already get to do the best part,” he said. “The coolest thing I get to do as president is confer degrees.”

Attendees applauded as Newsom officially conferred the degrees, telling students to stand and look out toward their family and friends in order to celebrate their hard work.

Fulton, veteran artist

Fatimah Bader reporter



Rick Fulton is a Pittsburg State alumnus and retired Army veteran who has transformed his apartment into a personal art studio. | Photo by Fatimah Bader

Decades after walking the halls of Pittsburg State University as a campus security officer, Rick Fulton now spends his days surrounded by paint brushes, canvases, and color. At 81 years old, the retired Army veteran and PSU alumnus has transformed his apartment into a personal art studio; a space filled with landscapes, seascapes, and the quiet rhythm of creativity.

“In retirement, this is what I do,” Fulton said. “I started taking art courses at PSU and at Labette Community College after I retired in 1995. For the past 30 years, I’ve explored different kinds of art at home, particularly acrylic paintings, though me and my number two pencil doodle a lot.” His paintings, often done in acrylics, blend his lifelong love for history and his fascination with light and movement.

Many of his works capture the glow of sunsets over water or the vibrant change of seasons across the Midwest. Each piece reflects not just a scene, but a story, an intersection of memory, color, and emotion.

“The Summerfield Apartment Clubhouse has hosted two of my paintings every week for the last year,” Fulton said. “I do landscapes and seascapes to study colors and blending. It’s how I continue learning.”

Fulton’s connection to Pittsburg State runs deep. After serving eight years in the U.S. Air Force, including two years in Vietnam as a photojournalist, he returned to Kansas to pursue his education. He earned a Bachelor of general studies in 1974 and later completed a Master of Arts in history and community college teaching in 1977.

Fulton recalled how he started from humble beginnings and worked his way through school as a campus dispatcher and patrolman.

“Not bad for a street kid,” Fulton said. His studies in history, particularly World War II, continue to influence his artwork. “I’ve been studying WWII history for years,” Fulton said. “After D-Day, I built a terrain model of Normandy using my art skills.”

Throughout his life, Fulton’s greatest inspiration was his late wife, Lorella. After her passing in 2023, painting became Fulton’s way to honor her memory.

“Lorella was my best friend as well as my wife,” he said. “We were very close, and she supported everything I did.”

He recalls how they once traveled to Alaska in their RV during the summers, photographing the scenery and wildlife that would later inspire his paintings. Fulton’s philosophy on art is simple, but profound. His works often display a balance between realism and emotion, memory and meaning.

“Art is the means of capturing reflections of light to communicate ideas about our world,” Fulton said.

With more than 60 paintings completed, Fulton insists he paints not for profit, but for joy.

“I give my paintings away as gifts,” Fulton said. “I do not sell them.” Now residing at Via Christi Village, he intends to keep creating. “The plan is to work with photography,” Fulton said. “Also, more drawing. Wish me luck!”

Then, with the same humility that has guided him through every chapter of his life, Fulton chuckled and summed it all up: “Just an old Vietnam vet having fun with paint and pencil doodles.”

Homecoming kickoff

Lauren Gilfillan reporter

The Pitt State homecoming committee and the Office of Police and Public safety launched homecoming week on Monday, Sept. 6 with a celebration filled to the brim with games, food and Gorilla spirit. The event drew a large crowd to the Gorilla Village for an evening of free inflatable attractions, activities, and barbecue. It helped to mark the official start of the weeklong series of events that will behold students up to Saturday’s homecoming football game.

The event itself was created for students, and the food, attractions and activities were all free.

“This place is really busy,” Tyne Ellis said, a freshman majoring in social work. She attended her first homecoming event that evening, emphasizing that it was still a good experience. “It was pretty fun though, I will say. I talked to a lot of new people today.”

Students enjoyed a variety of attractions that included two large bouncy houses, a giant inflatable chair for group photos, and a very vibrant balloon arch, serving the purpose as a backdrop for pictures. Gus the Gorilla made an appearance in a space suit, gladly posing for photos and walking around to greet students as well.

A popular part of the evening was the Stuff-a-Gorilla station. The activity gave students the opportunity to make their own plush version of Gus to pridefully take home. Students lined up to try the human hamster ball racing course as well, rolling across the mats in the large inflatable spheres while people cheered them on.

For a more thrill-seeking attendee, the wrecking ball amusement ride hopefully spun and swung enough to offer the adrenaline rush and laughter they were looking for.

All throughout the evening, candidates for homecoming king and queen had their tables set up in a stretch at the event, passing out pins and treats while talking to students to possibly gain their vote. The competition remained friendly but added to the celebrative atmosphere and gave students a chance to meet their peers that would represent various organizations.

Police and Public Safety officers served a barbecue dinner to students as well; the free meal became a big draw to the event with long lines forming early in the evening.

The kickoff event has become a tradition designed to bring students together and boost campus morale, while preparing students for a very spirited week. It also offers an opportunity for students to engage themselves with others.

By the end of the night, the Gorilla Village was filled with laughter, conversation and the sight of happy students enjoying an event made for them. The high turnout showed the strong sense of community that will continue through the week, reminding us of the fun, friendship, and pride that comes to the campus during homecoming week.



Pittsburg State students Rigby Fox, a Biology major, and Arrhenius Reilly, a Mathematics major, compete in a game during the Homecoming Kickoff event at Gorilla Village on Oct. 6, aiming to see who can stick it the farthest. | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez

‘Good Boy,’ good movie

Bryce Bicknell reporter

“Good boy,” a horror film released on Oct. 3, stars a dog named Indy, played by a nova scotia duck tolling retriever. If the movie did not focus so much on the dog and have the film presented from the dog’s perspective, we simply would not be talking about it.

“Good Boy,” directed by Ben Leonburg, stars Indy the dog and Shane Jensen as Todd, the dog’s owner. Todd, who has a lung disease, decides it is time to relocate to his grandpa’s abandoned house away from the city. Vera, Todd’s sister, played by Arielle Friedman, believes the house is haunted and that its isolation will cause his death much like his grandfather’s.

Indy also senses that something is wrong immediately, seeing things Todd cannot see and having nightmares, all while Todd’s condition gets worse and worse. It is a somewhat uninteresting plot until you remember that we are seeing everything from the dog’s point of view. This gimmick allows the movie to be much more interesting than it otherwise would have been.

Indy himself is played by an amazing actor, and it is he who carries the film. You genuinely feel bad for the dog at certain points in the movie. Ironically, the human characters are not as relatable, which is a weak spot in the film.

The film reflects on themes like loyalty and isolation. Indy is loyal to Todd even when Todd is angry and yells

at him. He cares for Todd, and he cannot leave him alone even if that is what Todd wants. Todd is isolated from everybody but his dog, much like his grandfather, who we get to see throughout the movie in the form of VHS tapes.

The atmosphere is also something the movie does well. It is dark for most of it, giving a sense of unease. Though at times, it can be hard to hear what the characters are saying, so I would suggest subtitles.

Another poorly executed aspect of the film is the supernatural element, which feels undercooked and just not scary. Perhaps this is intentional to avoid over-explaining, but it leaves a lot to be desired with the film. Maybe it’s me being desensitized to scary things, but I have noticed this in a lot of films lately, so it is not just a problem that “Good Boy” has.

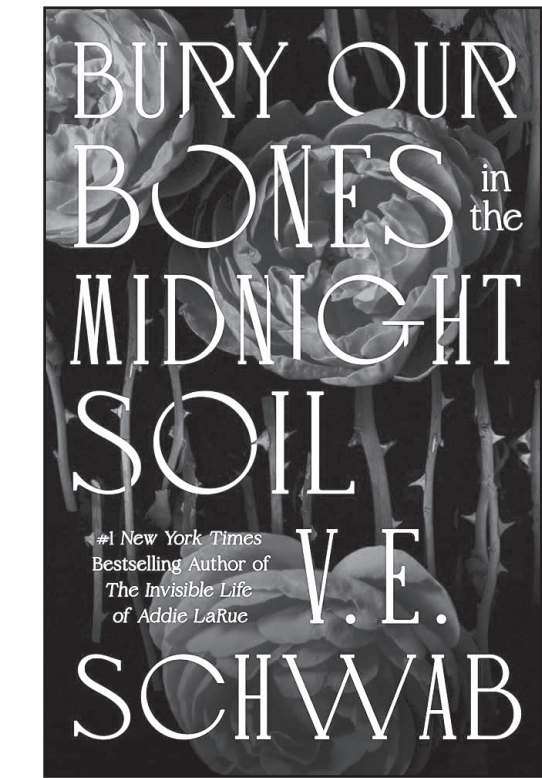
For being director Leoburg’s first film, it is pretty inventive and unique. The movie does not overstay its welcome, coming in at a 75-minute run time; it is fairly short, which is a plus.

Overall, “Good Boy” is an inventive movie that everyone should see just once in their life. Is it a horror film? Yes. Is it that scary? Not really. What matters more are the characters and the perspective the movie gives you. And no, do not worry about the dog; he is fine. I know that a bad ending for a dog might dissuade some from seeing it, so I felt the need to reassure. “Good Boy” earns a rating of 7.9 out of 10 for me.



| Photo courtesy of IMDb

‘Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil:’ a review



| Photo courtesy of Amazon

Emily Ford design chief

In a world where vampires exist and becoming one is the only way to escape the horrors of life, the split perspectives of Marie, Charlotte, and Alice follow the start and end of a reign of terror and hurt. It shows hunger, turning into love, turning into rage. From the author of “The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue,” V. E. Schwab’s “Bury Our Bones in the Midnight Soil” is an absolutely gut-wrenching tale.

The story starts in the year 1532 with Marie, a young woman forced into the whims of the social norms, and ends in 2019 with Alice, a college student who only wanted to start a new life.

I absolutely adored this novel. My favorite part of it would have to be the way each of the perspectives seemed to blend in with each other, only for them to connect later into the story. It just made the flow of everything smooth and easy to read.

That being said, there were some moments that were slower and a bit more confusing to read through. Something that I will commend this author for is her ability to write in the style of three completely different eras of time. Sometimes, though, it is just written so well that it makes it harder for the reader to understand.

The way the romance in this book kept building and building and building only to crash and burn in the end

made this a beautiful read. Schwab’s ability to write a romance novel reveals an incredible new work of art with each novel I read.

However, if you want a slow burn novel, this is it. Not quite “The Night Circus” level of slow burn, but something different in its entirety. It starts out slow with the other half of the pair not appearing until much later in the story, and it grows and builds until it is the only thing the reader is able to focus on.

Something that I was not as impressed with in this book was the ending. While it did provide a complete and rounded finish to the book, it just felt sudden and nothing until the last few chapters left any hint of what might come. It felt like the use of foreshadowing in this book was lost.

The use of three different perspectives throughout this book can also lead to some jarring whiplash while reading. A relatively more action-oriented chapter could end and lead to a different perspective where the character is just wallowing in their own thoughts.

This was an absolutely beautiful and brilliant book to read. From the flourishes of the 1500s style of writing to the straightforwardness of the 2000s writing style, it might be one of the most artistically sound books I have read in a while. My only qualms with it would be the ending and some very minor pacing issues found throughout the book. I give this book a 4.5/5.

A royal ten-in-bombshell

Lauryn Gilfillan reporter

Wes Anderson’s film “The Royal Tenenbaums” is more than just a film; it’s a meticulous family composed in pastel hues and lined in sorrow. The movie, released in 2001, remains to be one of Anderson’s most accomplished works, with the ability to balance dry humor with a deep emotional family dynamic that still resonates today.

From the opening scene, a storybook is narrated by Alec Baldwin. Anderson is able to establish a tone that is both tragic and playful throughout the movie. The film follows the downfall and reluctance to reunite the interesting Tenenbaum family, most of whom are prodigies who are haunted by their own brilliance. Gene Hackman leads the family as Royal Tenenbaum, the self-absorbed and egotistical father who charms and lies to his fractured family even before the main story begins. His sudden announcement of a terminal stomach cancer illness, which is later found to be an entire ruse, but it sets the “stage” for a comedic, crazy, and a human attempt to reconcile.

Each of the three Tenenbaum children carry the scars of their childhood glory. Chas used to be a financial expert who obsessed over the safety of his two children after the death of his wife in an airplane crash. Margot, the adopted daughter, is a Pulitzer-winning playwright who likes to hide the secrets of smoking and an affair from her husband, Raleigh St. Clair. And finally, Richie, a former tennis star who spirals after a public breakdown because of his unrequited love for his adopted sister. They all return to their childhood home, still owned by their mother Etheline, under the assumption that their father was sick.

Anderson’s direction of the dysfunctional family transforms it into poetry. His well-known visual style with symmetrical framing, color-coordinated sets and vintage outfits turns the Tenenbaum household into a great spectacle. The meticulously arranged rooms, dark blazers, and lightly colored backdrops reflect the precision Anderson brings into his storytelling. Every shot feels like it’s captured from a faded photo filled with memories; it’s deliberate and well planned.

The acting helps ground the film’s stylized genuine emotion in this fictional world. Gene Hackman, who plays Royal, delivers a fine late-career performance. He’s able to manipulate Royal’s charm with obvious regret and vulnerability. Gwyneth Paltrow gives the film a quiet passion, while Luke Wilson’s portrayal of a tender Richie provides the aching heart. Even the supporting cast, Angelica Huston as a resilient mother and Bill Murray as Margot’s husband, deliver such understated and touching characters that you can’t help but think about after the credits roll.

What truly makes “The Royal Tenenbaums” a great watch is the overall tone. It’s a blend of weird comedy and heartfelt emotion. Anderson never mocks the characters’ pain but finds the beauty in their imperfections. The humor doesn’t appear from the punchlines, but from the opposition of how the characters act. The way their grief is able to coexist with laughter, or how their disappointments can still persist in love.

Per usual, the soundtrack features intriguing tracks by Nico, The Velvet Underground, and Elliot Smith, which helps to further its emotional texture. The music also amplifies the story as well, being able to draw the audience into a nostalgic cloud that matches Anderson’s bittersweet vision.

“The Royal Tenenbaums” is a story about broken people that learn to live with their own flaws, as well as others. It’s a reminder that families will always be fragmented, but it’s a part of who we are and who we might be able to become again.

Even 20 years later, the film stands as a time capsule of the early 2000s in Anderson’s cinema, and a timeless adventure through forgiveness. Its immaculate artistry and caring humanity, “The Royal Tenenbaums” shows us that even the most dysfunctional families can find their way back to acceptance and love one another, through one awkward hug at a time.

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Upcoming dance show put on by students

Brianna Barnes managing editor

Pittsburg State University will see two student-led dance performances in the upcoming weeks. The Fall Informal Dance Show will be at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts in the Miller Theater Nov. 5 at 7 p.m., and the PSU Dance Showcase will be on Nov. 10 at the Bicknell Center.

Emma Eckstein, a sophomore majoring in accounting with a minor in dance, is one of many students planning the PSU Dance Showcase.

“I’m helping bring the show to life through my technology dance class,” Eckstein said. “My role is primarily administrative. I organize all the dance studios and teams participating and make sure everything runs smoothly on show day.”

Catelynn Jauert is a sophomore majoring in criminal justice with an emphasis in sociology and minors in psychology and dance. She is in the contemporary dance class and in a group of five for the Fall Informal Dance Show.

“This show allows people to try to dance and be on stage without a super big audience,” Jauert said. “It also lets dancers work on their choreography skills as the dancers are the ones to choreograph the dances.”

This is a casual dance showcase put on by all the dance classes at Pitt State. Most of the dances in this show are choreographed by students.

“It is important because it allows the students to express themselves and to try new things,” Dr. Liz Smith, an adjunct instructor for HHPR and head coach of Dance Team said. “There

are many people in the show who have not danced before.”

The PSU Dance Showcase is completely planned and executed by Dance Minors. It is \$1 to watch.

“This show is essential for the PSU Dance Minor because it serves as a fundraiser for our Fall Dance Show and Spring Dance Symposium,” Eckstein said. “The goal of the Dance Minor is to provide all costumes and props for participating dancers at no extra cost. This fundraiser ensures we can continue supporting dancers directly, helping them look and feel their best on stage.”

This also gives dancers an opportunity to meet others from the community.

“I’m most excited to see dancers from the community and surrounding areas come together and support one another,” Eckstein said. “There’s something truly special about dancers who may not know each other connecting through the art and sport we all love.”

For the Informal Show, there will be a wide variety of dance forms.

“Anyone can attend the show,” Smith said. “It is free and there will be performances in hip-hop, jazz, contemporary, and modern. It is a great event that is lots of fun.”

These shows are an opportunity to show the dancers’ talent and passion. The stage time and fundraising make this event major for the dancers at Pitt.

“This show is a celebration of talent, community, and the joy of dance,” Eckstein said. “We hope everyone comes out to enjoy the performances and support our dancers.”

Trio Latinoamericano fills McCray with traditional music

Lauryn Gilfillan reporter

Traveling more than 5,000 miles from Paraguay to Pittsburg, the Trio Latinoamericano band brought the colorful sounds of South America to McCray Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 8, as part of the Hispanic Music Festival.

The free concert featured a diverse program that specifically highlighted Latin American composers and musical traditions. The event drew a smaller-than-expected crowd, but the attendees were given an exceptional evening of artistry and culture. The informational pamphlet that was distributed at the concert reflected the cultural unity theme.

The trio was made up of Gabriel Graziani on the oboe, Hilaria Ferrari on the bassoon, and Bianca Gatti on the piano, representing a collaboration of musicians. Graziani was born in Uruguay, Ferrari is from Argentina, and Gatti is from Paraguay. Although they have performed together and individually, this was their first time performing abroad.

“They left at 6 a.m. on Sunday and got here at 4 a.m. on Monday,” Isaac Hernandez, an adjunct piano instructor and one of the festival organizers, said. “Their dedication



A Trio Latinoamericano band, consisting of Gabriel Graziani on the oboe, Hilaria Ferrari on the bassoon, and Bianca Gatti on the piano, came to Pitt State Oct. 8 to perform in McCray Hall. The musicians were from all around including Paraguay and Argentina. | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez

to this performance is amazing. We are so excited to have this as the seventh concert in our non-concert festival for the Hispanic Heritage month.”

The trio’s visit was sponsored by FONDEC Paraguay, a cultural organization that supports artistic projects, and coordinated with PSU for the celebration of culture. In addition to the public concert, the musicians also went to perform at Pittsburg High School and conduct a master class for students earlier in that week.

The evening’s program had 16 pieces, each chosen to reflect the range and depth of Latin American music. The opening number, “El Oboe De Gabriel” by Ennio Morricone, was only performed by Graziani and Gatti, setting the tone of emotion for the night. The second piece, “As Time Goes By” by Herman Hupfeld, only had Gatti and Ferrari play in a duet that blended popular influences with the classical.

After that, the trio reunited for “Capullito

De Alelí” by Rafael Hernández, filling the hall with the warmth of a Caribbean-South American harmony. For the rest of the night, all three musicians performed together, showcasing their skills of precision and depth.

All three performers brought their own unique artistry to the stage. Graziani’s oboe carried the lyrical phrasing and tone; Ferrari’s bassoon playing grounded the group with its depth, and the piano performance from Gatti provided the sensitivity and drive that painted a portrait of traditional dialogue.

Each piece was met with applause from the audience. After the final songs, the Trio Latinoamericano bowed and thanked the audience for their applause and the ability to share their culture so far from home.

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Half eagle, half lion, all chicken: Gorillas target Griffons on road to continue win streak

Curtis Meyer sports editor



Pitt State junior running back No. 26 Zahmari Palode-Gary breaks through Washburn’s defense. Gaining 25 yards on the play during the Oct. 11 game at Carnie Smith Stadium.
| Photo by Bryan Gonzalez

Pitt State has continued its dominant run, having defeated the Washburn Ichabods 34-10 last weekend. The Gorillas offense and defense were firing on all cylinders, and they will look to keep the motor running when they travel next weekend to take on the Missouri Western Griffons this weekend.

Pitt State was extremely successful against the Ichabods, holding them to just 26-yards on the ground, and only 144 yards on the ground, tallying one interception and a pair of sacks.

The Gorillas’ defense has been unstoppable during this recent run, forcing turnovers and keeping opponents at bay.

“We had a lot of guys work through fall camp, work through these last few games, taking that next step to be a person that can start in this defense and make plays,” senior linebacker Steven Ward said.

The offense has also picked up, with senior quarterback Jackson Berry finding his groove, as he used his legs to pick up two rushing touchdowns and his arm for a 75-yard touchdown before halftime. Berry’s arm is complimented by a solid offensive line, and a strong one-two punch by senior running back Cleo Chandler Jr. and junior running back Zahmari Gary Palode, who have shared snaps fairly evenly so far this season.

The red-hot Gorillas will go into Missouri Western, who has struggled so far this season. Sitting at 1-5, the Griffons have not won a game since they defeated Missouri S&T on Sept. 13. The Griffons are coming off of four straight losses, and have yet to win against an MIAA opponent.

The Griffons trail near the bottom in most statistics, scored the second least amount of points in the MIAA so far, just ahead of Washburn. The Griffons’ passing game has been somewhat above average, but this is mostly due to their poor time minutes. The run game has been also somewhere in the middle, but the key stat is the rushing touchdowns, where the Griffons have just three to the Gorillas’ 14.

On defense, the Griffons’ rushing defense has been very impressive so far this season, having allowed the least rushing yards and second fewest rushing touchdowns this season, a surprising stat for a team that is often playing from behind. Things unravel defensively in the passing game, as Missouri Western has allowed the most passing touchdowns and yards in the MIAA

Pitt State will need to continue to play their brand of dominant defense to keep the Griffons from challenging them, while the offense will need to pick apart the Griffons weak secondary. The passing game has grown every week with Pitt State, and this weekend will be a large opportunity for the Gorillas to really take another step forward.

“We have some really good football teams left on our schedule that run the football really well, so we will need to continue to improve in those areas,” head coach Tom Anthony said.

Despite their record, the last time the Gorillas played Missouri Western on the road, they narrowly lost 31-30. It was two years ago, but Pitt State will need to remain vigilant if they want to continue their winning streak. The game starts at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

PSU outraces competition

Curtis Meyer sports editor

Pitt State’s men’s and women’s cross-country teams both competed this past weekend, and both teams were able to add to their string of recent successes. It was déjà vu for the Gorillas, as both teams finished in fifth place overall. The women competed against 36 other teams, while the men faced 37.

Colorado Christian University took home the team competition in the men’s bracket, with a low score of 106. Saginaw Valley State finished second with 143 points, followed by Western Washington with 163 points, and Chico State with 198 points. Pitt State trailed with a score of 201, just a point ahead of Florida Southern.

Junior Tyler Atkins paced Pitt State, coming in 14th place with a time of 22 minutes and 22.06 seconds. Just behind him was redshirt junior Dylan Sprecker with a time of 24 minutes and 23.36 seconds, while fellow redshirt junior Nathan Hinrichs came in at 16th to round out the trio with a time of 24 minutes and 23.50 seconds. Redshirt senior Travis Sickles came in at 30th overall, with a time of 24 minutes and 37.42 seconds. It was redshirt freshman Jordan Kilonzo that rounded out the Gorillas, placing at 129th overall with a time of 25 minutes and 41.44 seconds.

The women’s team title was taken by Chico State, with a low score of just 100 points. Lewis had 140 points, Biola 180 points and Colorado Mesa 180 points to round out the top four. Pitt State followed with a score of 220 points, ahead of Western Washington with 246 points.

Junior Paige Mullen came out on top for the Gorillas, placing third overall with a time of 21 minutes and 09.05 seconds. Teammate redshirt sophomore Hannah Gibson was not far behind, placing fifth overall in the competition with a time of 21 minutes and 18.61 seconds. Sophomore Lorna Rae Pierce was next for Pitt State, coming in at 23rd overall with a time of 22 minutes and 00.27 seconds. It was redshirt junior Kaci Singer coming in at 86th overall next, with a time of 22 minutes and 55.75 seconds, while redshirt sophomore Phoebe Fletcher rounded out the Gorillas scoring with a 108th place finish, with a time of 23 minutes and 07.93 seconds.

This meet was the final tune-up for the Gorillas as they get ready for the MIAA championships on Oct. 25. The Gorillas will have a lot of expectations to hold up to, as the women’s team claimed the MIAA championship last year, and the men’s finished as the runners up behind Northwest Missouri.



Livi Jones, freshman, midfielder, passes the ball as an Emporia State University player attempts to gain possession of the ball. Pittsburg State University tied with Emporia State University, 0-0.
| Photo by Emma Forst

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PSU student releases album ‘Left in the Present’

Joshua Smith editor-in-chief

Pittsburg State University student, Jonathan Adam, debuted a full-length jazz fusion album titled “Left in the Present,” released on major streaming platforms on Aug. 23, under the artist name Jon Adam. The album features songs composed by Adam and played by studio musicians, centered around saxophone melodies performed by Adam. The music does not contain lyrical singing but still conveys the story of Adam grieving the loss of his best friend, Josiah Fletcher, and dealing with those complex emotions. Adam is a sophomore majoring in political science.

Jazz is a very expressive form of music, although it is a genre that listeners may not be familiar with. Adam’s album may sound like elevator music to some listeners at first, but a clear theme of grief and survivors’ guilt at the loss of a friend lurks in every song.

“In March of 2023, my best friend, Josiah Fletcher, died in a car accident,” Adam said. “That was a day that absolutely changed my life completely. I was in a toxic relationship, I wasn’t hanging out with many friends, I felt lost. And when he died, it was the most devastating moment of my entire life. But it opened me up; I found priorities in friends and family. It really clicked for me what I wanted ‘Left in the Present’ to be about. When he died, I felt like time stopped moving, so ‘Left in the Present’ was meant to represent the chaotic innerworkings of going through that grief, but also that overcoming.”

Adam said that the feel of the album follows the up and down waves of emotions he felt while dealing with and overcoming the loss.

“There were so many waves,” Adam said. “When you lose somebody, you go through waves of just torrential pain, anger, and sadness. And then you have those moments of clarity in between. So that’s how I wanted the album to start.”

The album ranges between many different subgenres of jazz including big band, swing, Japanese city pop, midcentury pop, and even neoclassical progressive metal. Adam said he had set out to write songs that each had a unique sound but could fit under the broad label of jazz fusion.

“I really centered in with the sounds of jazz fusion, because I really liked how it brought so many different pieces together,” Adam said. “There are so many different genres under one niche; they will sound drastically different. And that’s what I wanted, I wanted everything to sound unique and different yet fall under a similar umbrella.”

While jazz is not Adam’s favorite genre, he said he loves creating with jazz and was musically inspired by Charles Mingus.

“I am absolutely in love with composing jazz pieces,” Adam said. “It’s not my favorite genre, but I love the creation of it. My biggest inspiration for

all the music I create was ‘Moanin’ by Charles Mingus. That is an absolutely terrific, fast, big band jazz piece, which centers around the bari saxophone, which is also my favorite saxophone.”

Adam said he used Garage Band to write the sheet music to the album, which was played by digital instruments originally. But after getting in contact with a producer and session musicians, he was able to get live instruments on almost every song. On the album, Adam played the saxophones, as well as bass guitar on one track, “The Way She Is.”

“It originally all did start out with a lot of midi sounds, and Garage Band has great access to these AI tools where you are still making all of your own music. However, it is AI instruments, so it sounds a lot better than midi,” Adam said. “AI did not create the music. AI was originally purely made to make the sounds, but I composed all of it. Eventually, when I ended up getting a producer and started working with live instruments and having a lot more access in range, every single song was real instruments except for ‘Time Well Spent I,’ which has synthesizers.”

In reviewing the album, I was surprised at how many turns the musical direction takes and impressed with the level of complexity in the composition. Some of the songs sound like they belong in the credit sequence of an old movie or TV show, some sound like they would fit right into the world of Fallout, and others sound like the generic “Muzak” found in old shopping centers or The Sims franchise. At first listen I assumed that the instrumentation relied heavily on digital midi instruments, but speaking with Adam, I found out that session musicians were used.

I cannot guarantee that a listener who is not already a fan of jazz would enjoy the album on its own, but the backstory of loss and dealing with emotions paired with the fact that a Pitt State student released this album certainly warrants at least one full listen of the album. For those who do enjoy jazz, there are so many subgenres of jazz included in the album that listeners are sure to find a track that they vibe with. The musicianship and composition on the album really blew me away and I was even more blown away to learn that Adam is not a music student, nor does he intend to pursue a career in music.

It would be a disservice to the songs to try to explain or review each one individually, but overall, the album is great for background listening or a long drive. I give the album a four out of five stars for the musicianship and writing along with the artist being local and the emotional back story. It could not have been easy to reach the level of vulnerability and emotional intelligence it took to write about this topic then and distribute this album. That being said, I cannot give it a five out of five stars as I do not see this being an album that anyone jams at a club.



Connor Roudebush, a sophomore studying construction management and Braxton Gough, a freshman studying biology, compete for Lamda Chi Alpha in the Raft Races on Thursday, Oct. 9 during Homecoming Week. They placed first in their section of the race. | Photo by Emily Ford

Students make splash at raft races

Chance Fields reporter

Thursday, Oct. 9, the Pitt State Homecoming Committee hosted the annual Raft Races. This event brought together students and organizations as teams put their creativity and teamwork to the test at University Lake during homecoming week.

Spectators filled the shore to cheer on friends and classmates as rafts of all shapes and designs battled against the water. One of those watching was Ariana Shankle, a sophomore biology major, who came out to support her sorority.

“I’m in Tri Sigma,” Shankle said. “It’s my first time watching, and it’s really upbeat. Everybody’s cheering and having fun.”

Shankle said that one of her favorite moments came from the International Student Association’s raft.

“They kind of nose-dived into the water, which was hilarious,” Shankle said. “I’ve never seen another school do something like this, so it’s really special.”

Among the competitors was Avery Blubaugh, a senior biology education major, who competed alongside her teammate for Tri Sigma. Their raft followed a canoe-style design. The pair spent about six hours total over three nights building their raft, allowing time for each Flex Seal layer to dry.

“We wanted the ends to be pointed so it could cut through the water,” Blubaugh said. “We used pool noodles and coated the whole thing in Flex Seal so no water would get in.”

Blubaugh’s strategy was to communicate and paddle on one side.

“It’s my last semester at Pitt State, so this is a really sweet moment for us,” Blubaugh said. “The alien costumes are definitely the best part, even though the green face paint is itchy.”

Blubaugh said there were some challenges due to the design, but adrenaline kept them going.

“Our cardboard walls didn’t hold up when we climbed in,” Blubaugh said. “We focused so much on the base that we forgot about the sides. We ended up having to swim the whole thing, and neither of us are swimmers. It was pure adrenaline.”



Soliana Guinto, a junior majoring in political science, and Shelby Stein, a sophomore majoring in elementary education, fight to the finish during raft races at University Lake. This was held Oct. 9 as part of Homecoming week and the two girls were participating on behalf of Gorillas Activity Board. | Photo by Brianna Barnes

Gathering ‘round the bonfire



Members of Pitt State Cheer perform in front of the fire at the Homecoming Bonfire on Friday, Oct. 10. During this event the winners of the Homecoming Court were announced. | Photo by Emily Ford



Bobby Bacon, a freshman studying education and quarterback of the football team, gives a short speech on how the football team is doing at the Homecoming Bonfire. The event happened on Friday, Oct. 10. | Photo by Emily Ford

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With the rising prices of consoles and games from larger corporations, indie games have been steadily rising in popularity once again. Along with this, many now follow the development of indie games, directly supporting them without the need for YouTubers. Still, it does not diminish the good that can come from large popular creators giving light to small indie creators and games. Without one, the other would not be as popular.

Judge temporarily blocks Trump administration

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal judge on Wednesday temporarily blocked President Donald Trump’s administration from firing workers during the government shutdown, saying the cuts appeared to be politically motivated and were being carried out without much thought.

U.S. District Judge Susan Illston in San Francisco repeatedly pressed the assistant U.S. attorney to explain the administration’s rationale for the more than 4,100 layoff notices that started going out Friday even though furloughed workers can not access their work emails and there are no human resources specialists to assist with next steps.

Asked for comment, the White House referred The Associated Press to the Office of Management and Budget. The budget office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

“The president seems to think his government shutdown is distracting people from the harmful and lawlessness actions of his administration, but the American people are holding him accountable, including in the courts,” said Skye Perryman, president and CEO of legal organization Democracy Forward. “Our civil servants do the work of the people, and playing games with their livelihoods is cruel and unlawful and a threat to everyone in our nation.”

Illston’s order came as the shutdown, which started Oct. 1, entered its third week.

Democratic lawmakers are demanding that any deal to reopen the federal government address their health care demands. Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson predicted the shutdown may become the longest in history, saying he “won’t negotiate” with Democrats until

they hit pause on those demands and reopen.

Democrats have demanded that health care subsidies, first put in place in 2021 and extended a year later, be extended again. They also want any government funding bill to reverse the Medicaid cuts in Trump’s big tax breaks and spending cuts bill passed this summer.

The Trump administration has been paying the military and pursuing its crackdown on immigration while slashing jobs in health and education, including in special education and after-school programs. Trump said programs favored by Democrats are being targeted and “they’re never going to come back, in many cases.”

In a court filing, the administration said it planned to fire more than 4,100 employees across eight agencies.

In a related case, Illston had blocked the administration from carrying out much of its plans to reduce the size of the federal workforce. But the Supreme Court said the administration could continue firing workers while the lawsuit is pending.

The unions say the layoff notices are an illegal attempt at political pressure and retribution and are based on the false premise that a temporary funding lapse eliminates Congress’ authorization of agency programs.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Hedges said in court Wednesday that the district court lacks jurisdiction to hear employment decisions made by federal agencies. Under prodding by the judge, Hedges said she was not prepared to discuss the merits of the case, only reasons why a temporary restraining order should not be issued.



Illinois House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch decries the federal government’s Chicago immigration crackdown tactics and vows his Democratic caucus will adopt resolutions to condemn them in this Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025 image at the state Capitol in Springfield, Il. | AP Photo John O’Connor

Journalists turn in access badges



Washington Post reporter Tara Copp saves the name plaques from various news organizations as she and members of the media pack up their belongings in the press area in the Pentagon, Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2025 in Washington. | AP Photo/Kevin Wolf

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Dozens of reporters turned in access badges and exited the Pentagon on Wednesday rather than agree to government-imposed restrictions on their work, pushing journalists who cover the American military further from the seat of its power. The U.S. government has called the new rules “common sense.”

News outlets were nearly unanimous in rejecting new rules imposed by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth that would leave journalists vulnerable to expulsion if they sought to report on information — classified or otherwise — that had not been approved by Hegseth for release.

Many of the reporters waited to leave together at a 4 p.m. deadline set by the Defense Department to get out of the building. As the hour approached, boxes of documents lined a Pentagon corridor and reporters carried chairs, a copying machine, books and old photos to the parking lot from suddenly abandoned workspaces. Shortly after 4, about 40 to 50 journalists left together after handing in badges.

It is unclear what practical impact the new rules will have, though news organizations vowed they’d continue robust coverage of the military no matter the vantage point.

Trump supports the new rules Speaking to reporters at the White House on Tuesday, Trump backed his defense secretary’s new rules. “I think he finds the press to be very disruptive in terms of world peace,” Trump said. “The press is very dishonest.”

Even before issuing his new press policy, Hegseth, a former Fox News

Channel host, has systematically choked off the flow of information. He’s held only two formal press briefings, banned reporters from accessing many parts of the sprawling Pentagon without an escort and launched investigations into leaks to the media.

“What they’re really doing, they want to spoon-feed information to the journalist, and that would be their story. That’s not journalism,” said Jack Keane, a retired U.S. Army general and Fox News analyst, said on Hegseth’s former network.

When he served, Keane said he required new brigadier generals to take a class on the role of the media in a democracy so they wouldn’t be intimidated and also see reporters as a conduit to the American public. “There were times when stories were done that made me flinch a little bit,” he said. “But that’s usually because we had done something that wasn’t as good as we should have done it.”

Mongillo, Youssef and others emphasized that they’ll continue to do their jobs no matter where their desks are. Some sources will continue to speak with them, although they say some in the military have been chilled by threats from Pentagon leadership.

The Pentagon Press Association, which has 101 members representing 56 news outlets, has spoken out against the rules. Organizations from across the media spectrum, from legacy organizations like The Associated Press and The New York Times to conservative outlets like Fox and Newsmax, told their reporters to leave instead of signing the new rules.

Big 12 fines Kansas \$25,000 for statement that knife thrown at game

The Associated Press

The Big 12 fined Kansas \$25,000 on Wednesday for coach Lance Leipold’s statement that a pocketknife was thrown at his staff during the Jayhawks’ game at Texas Tech last weekend.

The conference said the allegation was inaccurate and Leipold’s comments after the 42-17 loss to the Red Raiders were “disparaging.”

“Coach Leipold’s comments questioned the integrity and professionalism of both the Conference and a member institution,” Big 12 Commissioner Brett Yormark said in a statement. “Both actions warranted a financial penalty. The Big 12 Conference prioritizes integrity and will have no further comment on the matter.”

Speaking about Tech fans’ tradition of throwing tortillas onto the field, Leipold said a pocketknife was also thrown in the third quarter of the game.

“I mean it’s ridiculous,” he said in his postgame press conference. “I mean it’s supposed to be for safety and things like that. ... It’s a culture that’s been accepted to a point and it hasn’t changed and eventually someone is going to be seriously hurt

unfortunately.” Leipold apologized Wednesday for what he called “an emotional reaction” and thanked the conference for reviewing the allegation.

“I accept their findings and ultimate ruling,” he said.

Kansas athletic director Travis Goff said Leipold commented before all of the facts had been collected.

The conference also fined Texas Tech \$25,000 for the tortillas that were thrown onto the field.

“After a formal review, Texas Tech did not take sufficient steps to prevent and deter the repeated throwing of objects onto the field and team bench areas,” Yormark said.

The tortillas are a longtime tradition at Tech that the conference is cracking down on. Big 12 athletic directors voted 15-1 in the offseason to approve disciplining home teams for fans throwing objects onto the field. Texas Tech coach Joey McGuire has asked fans not to throw tortillas, but they did it anyway and got the Red Raiders penalized twice.



Texas Tech head coach Joey McGuire, center, speaks to Kansas head coach after the end of the NCAA college football game, Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, in Lubbock, Texas. | AP Photo/Annie Rice

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Weekend Festivities



Members of Sigma Chi hit the ground during their performance at the annual Yell Like Hell event at Carnie Smith Stadium in Pittsburg, Kansas, on Friday, Oct. 10. | Photo by Kaylee Dillow



Pittsburg State cheerleaders perform energetic stunts and dances during the Yell Like Hell Homecoming event, showcasing school spirit and excitement ahead of the big game. | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez



The Gorilla Activity Board celebrate with chest bumps following their joint performance with Phi Sigma Kappa during the Yell Like Hell event at Carnie Smith Stadium on Friday, Oct. 10. | Photo credit Kaylee Dillow



Members of Pittsburg State's Esports Club perform in the small division during the Yell Like Hell Homecoming event. Mark Ziegler takes the mic to introduce their routine as Roman Hurlbert joins in with lively dance moves on stage. | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez



Gus the Gorilla makes a lively appearance at the Pittsburg State Homecoming Parade, riding through Broadway in an ATV and energizing the crowd with waves and school spirit. | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez



U.S. veteran proudly drives an army jeep down Broadway during the Pittsburg State Homecoming Parade, honoring military service and drawing cheers from the crowd. | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez



The Homecoming Parade fills Broadway with school spirit ahead of the football game, featuring creative floats and lively performances. Sigma Chi fraternity took home 1st place in the Float Competition with their standout design celebrating Gorilla pride. | Photo by Bryan Gonzalez