



‘Endgame’ a soon to come theater’s production



Micheal Fienen, a Pitt state alum as Nagg, laments about Hamm his son needing him too much but still not being appreciated or listened to. | Photo by Ky Boterf

Ky Boterf reporter

On Feb. 26, Pitt State’s theater will have their opening night of “Endgame” by Samuel Beckett, an existentialist play about unhappiness and death. The production will run from Feb. 26 – 28 at 7:30 P.M., and Feb. 28 to March 1 at 2 P.M. Linden Little, a communications professor who is directing “Endgame,” elaborates on the decision to perform a Samuel Beckett play, saying, “There’s a lot of interest in Samuel Beckett right now. I think, in turbulent times, like today, certain playwrights come out, and so Samuel Beckett is one of those.” Beckett’s plays include common themes of existentialism, futility, and human suffering. Endgame as a play has no true plot; it is very conceptual because of Beckett’s minimalist style of writing. “This is a very unusual play. There’s no plot. The characters are loosely developed. So, there’s nothing normal like watching a story. It’s like taking a bath in a language instead. So, it’s a little bit difficult to digest,” said Little, explaining his way of understanding “Endgame.” “I would encourage people to not try to wrap their head around and just experience it. it’s about having a relationship with the language of the characters and feeling that.” Though “Endgame” is a one-act play, it brings many strong ideas for the audience to think about. The main characters are Hamm and Clov, with their relationship showing many of these ideas. Clov, being raised by Hamm and now a servant, is trying to get away and leave. “With Hamm, he will very much, start on a

conversation, it’ll end, and then he’ll be like, what about this other thing that’s completely unrelated to the current topic?” Tave Witherspoon said, a Pittsburg State automotive alumnus who plays Hamm. He elaborates on the character of Hamm, an old man who is at the end of his life and bound to a chair. “I originally auditioned for Nagg and Clov, because in my previous play, “Exit, Pursued by a Bear,” I was also in a chair for the entire show.” To perform Beckett’s “Endgame,” it takes a lot of focus for performers to remember their lines with the large amount of repetition. This makes it so the cast needs to be in sync with one another. “It’s a show that moves very quickly through everything and the way everybody has to interact and be comfortable to just jump in and run with things,” says Michael Fienen who plays Nagg, and is a Pitt state alum who majored in communications with an emphasis in theater. He continues, “You know, this cast is going to show off a side of that, that I think is very valuable to “Endgame” in particular.” Just as the theater finishes putting together “Endgame” before their opening day, the performers are feeling confident in their abilities and good about the play. This being the theater’s second to last large performance of the year; auditions are soon to be held for their final play. Auditions for “Black Comedy” by Peter Shaffer will soon be held Wednesday, March 4 and Tuesday, March 5 at 7 P.M. in the Grubbs Studio Theatre, 103 Grubbs Hall.

Rising Stars perform in orchestra

Brianna Barnes chief editor

Winners of the Aria/Concerto Competition were featured at a Southeast Kansas Symphony concert on Feb. 21 at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts. Gavin Burdette, a senior majoring in music performance, played the trombone; Mary Jo Peterson, a senior majoring in family and consumer science major and a music minor, sang soprano; Jack Stefanoni, a junior majoring in music education, played the vibraphone. The concert also featured a piece composed by student Jude Wolfe, a senior majoring in music composition. “I felt very proud of my performance,” Peterson said. “I got to enjoy Jack’s performance backstage and Gavin’s performance from the audience, and they were both spectacular. In my day-to-day life as a vocalist, I am often around other voice students or in choir, so getting to see instrumentalists perform is so cool to me. It’s like a superpower.” The program started with a short string piece, “The Petit Serenade” by Yokoyama, followed by the first movement of the vibraphone concerto by Emmanuel Sejourne, which Stefanoni played. Peterson sang “Laurie’s Song” from The Tender Land, composed by Aaron Copland. Wolfe’s piece, “Sky Grazer,” finished the first half of the concert. Stefanoni felt pleased with his performance and enjoyed it. I feel great about my performance,” Stefanoni said. “It went well, and I had a lot of fun performing it, which I think is the most important thing. The piece itself is beautiful, and I felt a lot of emotions being able to perform it in front of so many supportive and influential people in my life and backed up by an orchestra of my peers.” Seeing his friends perform made the concert special, said Stefanoni. “This particular concert felt special to me because of who else was involved,” Stefanoni said. “Jude Wolfe, a great friend of mine and an amazing musician/composer, had his first work for an orchestra premiered at the concert. Gavin Burdette, another great friend of mine, performed his trombone concerto. A piece called “Procession of the Nobles” by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov followed intermission, and the concert ended with the “Concertino for Trombone and Orchestra” by Ferdinand David, which was performed by Burdette. Family and friends of the performers came to support the featured students. Kacey White, a senior majoring in nursing, came to support Peterson, but enjoyed the whole concert. “I thought the performances were incredible,” White said. “Each performer was unique and it was evidence how much work, time and passion they’ve put into their music. When Mary Jo sang her solo, it honestly gave me chills. Her voice just has that impact on people, and I’m sure the whole room felt the same way.” Peterson felt very supported and enjoyed singing her first solo with an orchestra. “Everyone in the orchestra was very supportive and welcoming to me during rehearsals and backstage before the performance, especially Dr. Miranda,” Peterson said. “What made the performance special to me was it was my first time ever singing with an orchestra as a soloist. The piece was specifically special to Peterson. “My amazing voice professor, Dr. Grace Steiner, gave this piece to me as part of my repertoire last year,” Peterson said. “When we revisited it, this fall while preparing for the audition, I kind of fell in love with the song all over again. As I sing it, I put myself in Laurie’s shoes as a girl who doesn’t know what the future holds for her, but longs to explore everything the world has to offer. Singing “Laurie’s Song” at the concert was a moment where for four minutes, everyone in that room could feel that same sense of wonder and possibility with me.”



David Osborne performs on the piano at the David Osborne Trio event at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts on Feb. 18. He previously performed at Bicknell for it's grand opening. | Photo by Kaylee Dillow

Pittsburg matchas from worst to best

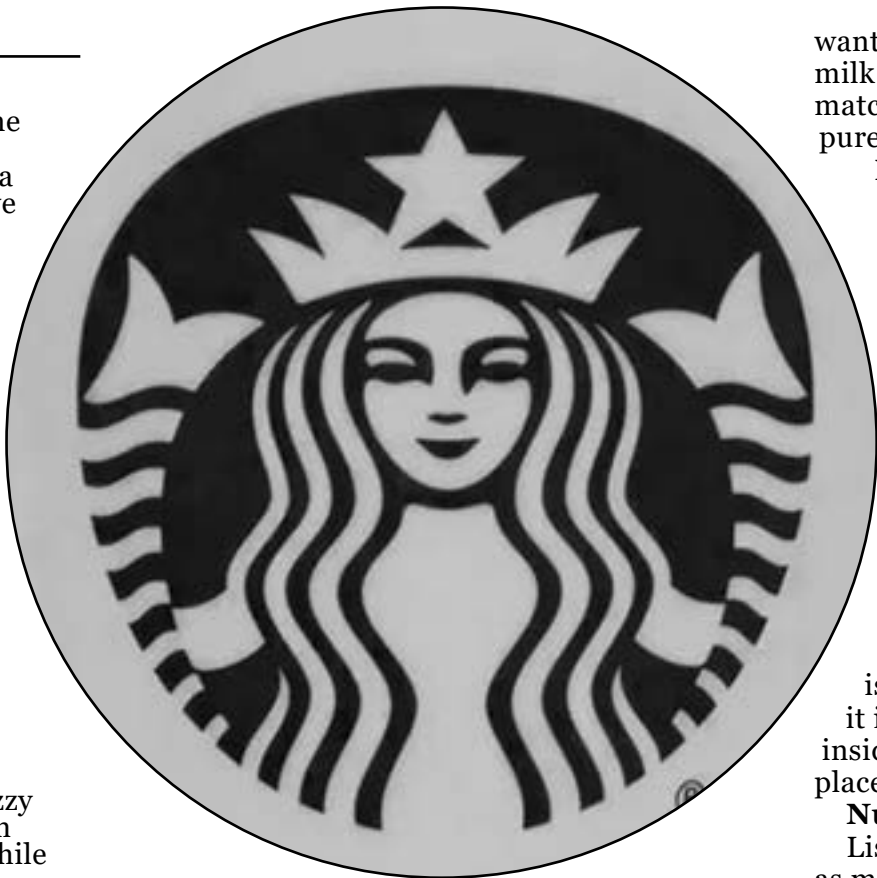
Caroline Kunshek reporter

In the past several years, matcha tea has become more globally popular than ever. The green drink originated in 7th-10th century China and has a rich traditional history. As a healthier, slightly less caffeinated alternative to coffee, matcha became a worldwide social media staple during everybody's mid-pandemic health kick. Because of this growing popularity, Pittsburg now has several options for purchasing a matcha on the go, and none of them taste quite the same as the next. Here are my rankings for my favorite matcha lattes of Pittsburg.

Number six: Scooter's Coffee
My personal least favorite matcha is Scooter's matcha. Scooter's offers a matcha latte that is somehow never quite mixed enough. This sentiment also extends to the Scooter's in Fort Scott. While the taste is okay, I have never ordered a matcha from a Scooter's in which there were no giant matcha powder clumps piled around the drink. Aside from this, the flavor is acceptable, but not preferable.

Number five: 7 Brew
From extensive coffee combinations to fizzy energy drinks, 7 Brew has no shortage of fun drinks to offer the tired college students. While I'm definitely a huge fan of their flavored lemonades, their matchas are borderline flavorless. My theory is that while their cup sizes can get so large, their amount of matcha powder is too little and gets watered down. They must add too much milk to fill the cup. However, if the flavor of matcha makes you think of grass, but the concept makes your Instagram persona happy, 7 Brew would be a great place to add different flavors to the drink and drown out the earthy notes.

Number four: Starbucks (Broadway Street)
Specifically referring to Starbucks on



| Photo courtesy of Amazon

Broadway Street, I would not rank their matcha very highly. In fact, I would probably rank it last if it were not for the ability to add extra scoops of matcha powder. This matcha is so bland and watered down; it is almost nothing but milk and ice. It is especially bad when ordering an iced matcha ahead; your drink will 100% be mostly water from the melted ice. No matcha to be found. This can be slightly remedied by adding extra matcha scoops (which is unfortunate if you

want less caffeine). There are simply too much milk and ice. I am, however, a huge fan of the matcha Frappuccino, especially with strawberry puree added.

Number three: Quick Sip
I really have no complaints about matcha from Quick Sip. They add plenty of powder and mix it well every time. The flavor is great, and it tastes very similar to an authentic matcha without a bunch of extra sweeteners. Quick Sip is easily a top contender for me.

Number two: The Balkan
The Balkan makes a great matcha, and offers a flavored variant called the "Mine Dust" (I prefer it without the pistachio). The matcha tastes authentic and is always mixed to perfection. Even better, The Balkan is on the south side of town, making it extra convenient for Pitt State students. It is a local business, conveniently located, and it is delicious. If you have the extra time to go inside instead of using a drive-thru, this is the place to go.

Number 1: The Library Starbucks
Listen, I hate putting Starbucks in first place as much as the next small-business supporter. However, there is something so good about the matcha in the Pitt State library's Starbucks specifically. I am not sure what they do differently than Starbucks on Broadway, but the milk to matcha ratio is perfect, and I have never been disappointed. The flavor is amazing and strong, and it gives me just the pick-me-up I need during long library days. The best part is that it is right there on campus. The convenience and the flavor cannot be topped, and I will choose this matcha any day.

‘Wuthering Heights’ movie review

Mat Dains reporter

“Wuthering Heights” premiered on Feb. 13 and was directed by Emerald Fennell. The movie is a feverish, stylized reimaging of the classic Emily Brontë novel. Known for her provocative works in “Promising Young Woman” and “Salt Burn,” Fennell approaches Brontë’s classic not as a sacred text but as raw material. The result is a film that is visually arresting and emotionally punishing, but not without controversy.

The most glaring issue with the film is the casting of Heathcliff. Traditionally portrayed as racially ambiguous and explicitly described as dark-skinned, Heathcliff’s outsider status is central to the story’s tension around class and otherness. Fennell’s casting choice dilutes the racial and social marginalization that fuels Heathcliff’s alienation and build-up to vengeance. This adaptation severely risks reframing his rage as purely romantic obsession rather than the byproduct of systematic racism, cruelty, and prejudice. I can see the intention of Fennell’s idea of universalizing Heathcliff’s animosity as a threat all men are capable of, but still, the casting choice comes off as either tone-deaf to the struggles of people of color or blatant whitewashing.

Fennell’s adaptation also diverges from the novel’s intricate narrative structure, a broad, layered storytelling filter through the perspectives of Lockwood and Nelly, that creates emotional distance through ambiguity, allowing readers to question the narrators’ reliability. Fennell discards much of this framing device, opting for a more immediate, biased, linear narrative. The removal of these mediating voices streamlines the plot but sacrifices the novel’s haunting sense of generational storytelling. This results in the movie lacking the book’s second arc. By the end of the movie, Fennell’s framing of Nelly’s actions shifts the entire plot, making her an antagonistic character.

Another major change in this adaptation is the total absence of any supernatural gothic elements from the original novel, the removal of ghosts, and the omission of the second half of the book, which further removes yet another layer of Brontë’s deep multigenerational storytelling.

Yet for all its omissions, Wuthering Heights is undeniably cohesive and thematically focused. She strips the story to its most volatile core, emphasizing the destructive intensity between Catherine and Heathcliff. Tenderness curdles into manipulation. Love becomes indistinguishable from mental domination. By narrowing its lens, the film transforms a sprawling Gothic saga into a claustrophobic character study.

In the end, Fennell’s adaptation may frustrate novel puritans, but it succeeds as an amateur-driven interpretation. It is less concerned with fidelity than with feeling, specifically the ugliness of attachment, shades of feeling, and longing. This Wuthering Heights plunges headfirst into obsession, revenge, depravity, and cruelty, and appears not as a faithful retelling but as a bold, unsettling excavation of love at its most corrosive state.

Now, from my personal experience watching movies in theaters, I would have to say that, from the beginning to the middle of the movie, you begin to be drawn into phenomenal storytelling and develop a vested interest in one or the other characters. But by the end of the movie, despite the tragic ending, I don’t feel compelled to cry or feel sorry for any of the characters in the film. Mainly due to the amount of cruelty you see, every single character in this movie undertakes, and by the end, you feel a bleak, sterile ending.

‘Twisted (2026)’ is surely perfect

Bryce Bicknell reporter

Despite all the problems with “Twisted (2026),” directed by Darren Lynn Bousman, it proves to be a deeply enjoyable movie, though maybe for all the wrong reasons. Coming from the man who has directed four “Saw” movies, you can see that series’ DNA everywhere. It transcends a level beyond good or bad and needs to be seen to be believed.

“Twisted (2026)” stars Djimon Hounsou as Dr. Kezian, Lauren LaVera as Paloma, Mia Healy as Smith, and Neal McDonough as Bradshaw. Set in New York City, Paloma and Smith, lovers, run a realtor scam where they rent a house while pretending to put it out on the market, earning them tens of thousands of dollars. Paloma takes on various aliases from classic literature leading police to begin an investigation.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kezian is a world-renowned neural surgeon whose wife, who was also a doctor, passed away, and he is trying to make a breakthrough in neural transplants. Kezian is frustrated with the bureaucracy of the system and his superior Bradshaw. Paloma decides to rent Dr. Kezian’s house, which she then shows people in an attempt to scam them. A prospective buyer tries to hit her; she rejects his advances leading to a fight with Kezian sees on his cameras. He subdues the attacker and figures out Paloma’s scam. Kezian kidnaps her in an attempt to use her to advance science. All of that happens within the first 30 minutes of the movie, and it only gets crazier from there.

All the actors here are great, and you can empathize with each of them. Kezian is dealing with grief from the loss of his wife, leading him to take a drastic, but in his eyes, necessary action. Paloma is an orphan, and she only scams because it’s how she has survived all these years. They are both dealing with grief, and it’s the core theme of the film.

Hounsou’s acting especially knocks it out of the park, and he carries a lot of movies. The plot itself is full of holes, but one can overlook that because of how much fun the film has. The movie goes by fast with its 90-minute run time, and it uses all of it. The pacing is downright perfect, something a lot of movies struggle with. The editing only deepens the absurd nature of the movie with split screen shots and other unique choices. Despite its label as a horror thriller, the movie is rather hilarious. “Twisted” on most levels is not a good movie. One could even say that at points it is so bad that it is good. What it is is an entertaining movie you can completely turn your brain off to and enjoy the complete absurdity of.

In a sense, there aren’t a lot of movies like that anymore, with of course the closest comparison being the “Saw” franchise. Movies that are supposed to be these bloody horror-filled thrillers end up being intentionally hilarious. Overall, if you are looking for something to just mindlessly enjoy with friends or family, “Twisted (2026)” is perfect for that. On a pure enjoyment-based rating, it gets an 8.1/10.



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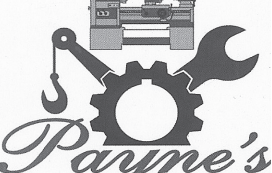
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Faculty art showcase hosted in Porter Hall

Bryce Bicknell reporter

Hosted in Porter Hall’s Harry Krug Gallery on Feb. 18 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. was the opening reception for Intersections: Faculty Works Across Media. When asked about the event, Chair of the Department of Art James Oliver said, “We exhibit about 10 artists per year, this particular exhibition with the reception this evening is for faculty biannual, happens every other year, and we highlight the faculty in the department and the work that they make so all the work that you see here is work that faculty are actively making.”

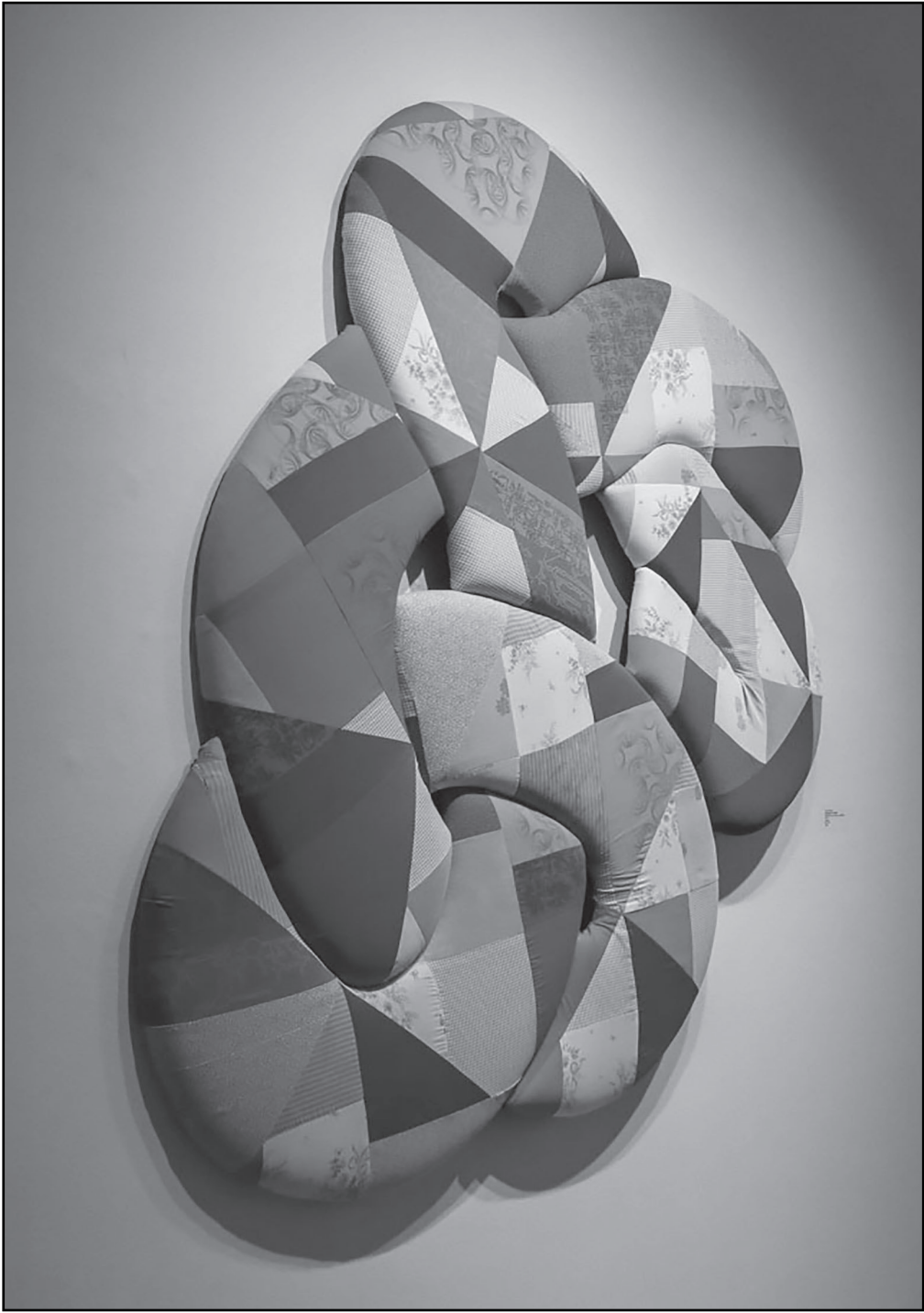
Oliver has his own piece on display called “Box Store Parking Lot: Sunset.” When asked about it, he said, “My work is really observational, but with a twist. The piece looks like it would be just an everyday scene, maybe in a parking lot, but in the construction of it, the truck is a toy truck made to be the scale that it needs to be to sit into a parking lot. The parking lot itself is in an existing parking lot in Pittsburg, and the sunset is from knowledge of, you know, light and sunsets, so I was after trying to sort out how the glow of the light would happen during sunset.”

When asked about why she came to the event, sophomore art and English major Lorna Rae Pierce said, “I really like seeing just the work that all the professors do. I think it’s interesting to see them through an academic respect but also respect to their profession.” A few pieces stood out to Pierce, with her saying, “One of the ones by Professor Allison, I really liked that one, because something about it feels so warm and almost nostalgic;” that one being “Composition and Lighting Comprehensive: Where the Old Things Are.”

When asked about what inspired her, Professor Kim Allison said, “For me, I really enjoy being a parent, and when I was in school, my bent was kind of toward greeting cards and children’s books anyway, so that’s kind of where my work comes from. It’s just that realm of caring, family, children, soft little things.”

When discussing why he showed up to the event Euler Oxlaj, a freshman art major, said, “I heard the faculty had their one exhibition. I only know them on a surface level, so I really like to know their work, what their strong points are, and their different styles compared to each other.” Later while discussing works that stood out to him, Oxlaj said “Olivia Timmons, her intaglio pieces are just impressive. I recently just got into print making because of her work because it looks cool.”

When asked about her art on display, Professor Olivia Timmons said, “I have those two over there, those are intaglio pieces, so they incorporate color printing and shape play elements, so that’s kind of like collage.” Later, she talked about what inspired her. “So most of my work revolves around humanity’s impact on nature and the natural world, so those two pieces are talking a little bit about photo axis, which is when nocturnal insects use celestial elements like the moon or stars to actually navigate in, so when we started producing artificial light, it’s



Abby Anderton created Anatomy of a Bond. It is part of the Art Faculty Exhibit. | Photo by Jack Bruntz

really had an impact on the populations.” Junior art major Madi Thomas best summed up the event by saying, “I feel like sometimes we see a lot of students’ artwork, which I really do appreciate, but it’s rare to see faculty artwork. And yes, they’re a teacher, but outside of being a teacher, they’re also just regular humans who each have their own individual lives.”

Pitt State prepares for the International Showcase

Masynn Acheson reporter

Saturday, Feb. 28, the 2026 International Showcase will happen in The Bicknell Family

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Center for the Arts. The International Showcase is one of the biggest student-driven events by foreign exchange students. The first part of the showcase includes a series of performances by various groups of international students ranging from vocal performances, instrumental, or dancing. Shreyashee Dutta is a graduate student and graduate teaching assistant in the psychology department, as well as a global performer. Dutta has performed at the International Showcase event for a few years, and plans to perform this year as well. Dutta describes the dance she will be performing a two-part dance, with the first part focusing on a style called Kathak and mixed with Indian contemporary. The second part will be based on the Bharatnatyam, Odissi, and Kathak styles of dance. “Dancing has been a huge part of my life and sharing my passion on stage has been very meaningful to me since I was three years old,” Dutta said, describing what dancing means to her. Favour Bassey is a graduate teaching assistant as well, but in the communications department, and will be performing a dance routine as well. Bassey will be performing an “African dance, making use of Afrobeat songs to display the African dance culture.” Her goal in performing in the upcoming showcase is to show the people here at Pitt State “how Africa as a whole is so broad and full of colors.” Above all, she wants “the audience to enjoy

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the performance and see how unique and beautiful Afro dance and music is.” Anna Biju, a junior in nursing, is an international student from India. She has gathered with several other international students from other countries to dance to a Korean pop song, otherwise known as K-pop. She said that “In this performance, we have students from different countries, like Taiwan, India, and South Korea.” When asked what led to the group’s decision to perform to that genre of music, she said that even though it does not stand for her culture, they wanted to show unity as a group, and they all liked that genre. Biju went on to say that “Through this performance, [they] came to know more about each other and the dedication [they] have together.” Leading up to the performance, there is still some rehearsal and polishing to be done, but they are determined. Each of the cultures that will be presented on Saturday, Feb. 28 are different, colorful, and unique. However, like Biju said, it is also to show that even though each is unique, the event is meant to show unity as people despite cultural and geographical differences. After the performances will be booths featuring food, cultural items, activities, and more from each group in attendance.

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Baseball continues undefeated streak

Curtis Meyer reporter

The good times are continuing with Pitt State baseball, as they completed a three-game sweep of Missouri Western this past weekend, extending their unbeaten winning streak to 13 straight games. Last week the team broke the record for best start to a season, and this week, history was made again by senior Dagen Brewer, as he claimed the MIAA record for consecutive game hitting streak, with his 33rd hit stretching back to last season.

“I don’t think we are really worried about being undefeated, just taking it one game at a time, keep playing our game. We’ve got to keep getting better, cause it’s a long season,” head coach Brock Buckingham said.

Pitt State began their first home stand of the season on Friday afternoon, as they waltzed to an 8-2 win over the Griffons. The Gorillas got to a 5-1 start after three innings, before adding three more runs in the sixth. The Griffons would score once in the top of the ninth to make it 8-2.

Softball picks up first ranked win

Curtis Meyer reporter

Another week, another tournament sweep for the Gorillas softball team, as they improved to 17-0 this past weekend, including two wins over a ranked opponent. Pitt State has already made history this season, and that improves this week as they competed in the MIAA GLVC Crossover.

“We had our first home games and we played well. It really hasn’t been something our girls have been focused on, in terms of what our record is, where we are currently at. It’s really about who we are playing right now,” head coach Josh Barnes said.

The tournament kicked off for the Gorillas on Saturday as they faced the University of St. Louis – Missouri in back-to-back games. The first game was a blowout for the Gorillas, as they dominated the Tritons 23-0. The win was tied for second most points in a game by the Gorillas all time.

In the circle, junior Ava Laurent (5-0) struck out six Tritons in 3.0 innings with redshirt sophomore Erica Schertz throwing the final 2.0 for Pittsburg State. Senior Lexi Davis finished with five RBI and was one of eight members of the team to score more than once in the game. Senior Heather Arnett, senior Alleyna Rushing and junior Taylor Lundien all finished with four runs scored in the game.

Game two would be a much closer affair for the Gorillas, as they managed to win 4-3. Pitt State got off to an early lead with a run in the bottom of the first inning, but the Tritons would take back the lead with three runs in the fifth. Down 3-1 with just two innings left, Pitt State came up big, scoring three runs in the sixth to take the lead and the eventual win.

Davis played hero with her first career home run as a Gorilla in the sixth inning. Junior Emma Crabb (5-0) picked up the win in the circle with two strikeouts in 2.0 innings of relief for senior Sailor Hall who struck out three in 5.0 innings of work.

The Gorillas then turned their attention to #24 ranked McKendree State, their first ranked opponent this year. Pitt State dominated in the first game, winning 10-2 in just five innings. Pitt State would take the lead early, before a six-run fourth inning solidified their win.

Davis finished going 2-for-2 with a pair of runs driven in from a triple in the third inning. Junior Bailey Haselhorst led the team with three RBI from a double to left center in the fourth that enacted the run rule the next inning. Laurent (6-0) picked up the complete game win and struck out three Bearcats.

The second game of the day was a bit closer, but Pitt State still came away with a 6-2 win over the Bearcats. Pitt State built a 4-0 lead going into the sixth inning, before the Bearcats finally found the board with two runs. Pitt State answered in the bottom of the same inning with two runs of their own, before shutting them out in the top of the seventh to secure the win.

Pitt State was led by graduate student Kady Trochim with three runs driven in as Arnett went 4-for-4 with two runs scored and drove in one run. Sophomore Lexi Franklin (4-0) pitched 6.0 innings with five strikeouts while Crabb finished the game with a shutout seventh inning.

“We are just trying to do what we need to do to win each game, and it really doesn’t matter who we are facing, whether they are ranked team or haven’t lost a game,” Coach Barnes said.

Records fall at Arkansas Qualifier

Curtis Meyer reporter

It was one last tune up for both the men’s and women’s track and field teams this past weekend, as they competed in the Arkansas Qualifier in Fayetteville. Despite a limited number of events that the Gorillas participated in, Pitt State still came out with some impressive performances, including a pair of record-breaking athletes.

“I think we felt good last weekend. We didn’t do much, but I felt like what we did we got what we wanted accomplished and was able to set the tone for what we need to do this weekend,” head coach Kyle Rutledge said.

Headlining the Gorillas, junior Paige Mullen broke her own school record in the women’s 3,000 meters. Mullen won the distance discipline in a fast time of nine minutes, 27.56 seconds, shaving nearly three seconds off her former Pitt State record time (9:30.22) from 2025. Sophomore Hannah Gibson also climbed to No. 2 on the Gorillas top 10 performers list in the 3,000m with a time of 9:45.13.

“It was a good tune-up; we saw some good things. Again, Paige Mullen did really well in breaking the school record,” Coach Rutledge said.

Other notable women’s performances included senior sprinter Kinleigh Hall, posting a season best time of 24.39 seconds in the 200 meters, and sophomore Cannon Booker recording a personal best clearance of 13 feet, 7.25 inches in the pole vault. Redshirt sophomore Kelsey Bruening (2:16.29) and sophomore Phoebe Fletcher (2:17.79) recorded PR times in the 800 meters.

In the men’s action, junior Tyrone Jackson posted the third-fastest time in school history in the 60-meter hurdles. He clocked in 7.79 seconds. A trio of Gorillas also posted fast times in the 400 meters – junior Nate Watson (46.94), junior Caden Williams (46.96) and junior Logan Davis (46.97). Williams and Davis both secured PR times. Additionally, senior Jack Haukau won the weight throw with a season-best toss of 65-4.

“We kind of use conferences as practice, almost. Not practicing like a regular week, but for finals. You get into a competition mentality, preliminary finals mentality, so you just get ready to compete more than on an average meet. Conference is always a fun time, that’s the first thing, but it’s like a learning experience, especially for the new people, to get ready for the nationals meet,” Watson explained.

Pitt State will quickly pivot their attention as they host the MIAA championships this weekend. The Gorillas will look to make their mark as they try to qualify for the NCAA Regionals yet again.

“Right now, we are just trying to make the calm before the storm, make sure everybody feels good, make sure we are doing what we need to do. It’s going to be intense, like any conference meet. It’s exciting, it’s energetic, it’s a team atmosphere,” Coach Rutledge said.

Brewer smacked a run-scoring triple with one out in the bottom of the first inning to extend his school record hitting streak to 31 games. Redshirt senior Isaac Webb added an RBI double and collected two hits on the day. Junior Jayden McNealy, junior Eric Bacon and Brewer all scored twice in the contest. McNealy also stole three bases.

Game two was much the same for the Gorillas, as they cruised to a 7-2 win. Pitt State got on the board first with a two-run third inning, eventually taking a 7-1 lead into the top of the ninth. The Griffons would find the scoreboard once in the ninth to make it 7-2, echoing the previous day’s game.

Graduate student starter Zach Voss improved to 4-0 on the season with five solid innings on the mound for the Gorillas. Voss limited Missouri Western to one run on two hits. He faced just 19 batters, issuing one walk and recording four strikeouts. Redshirt junior Ty Blecha worked three innings of a two-hit relief with four strikeouts. Bacon led Pitt State’s offensive attack with three hits. Bacon and senior Cooper Wesslund scored two runs apiece.

Sunday’s early afternoon game proved much tougher for Pitt State, as they mounted a come from behind 4-3 win over Missouri Western. The Griffons built up a 2-0 lead after four innings, but the Gorillas were able to tie it back up with a pair of runs in the bottom of the fifth. Pitt State would take the lead for the first time in the sixth, but the Griffons came back with a run in the eighth to knot it up at three apiece. Pitt State would answer in spectacular fashion, as junior Landon Bruce would smack a homer in the ninth to get the go ahead score and win the game.

Junior Ethan Froud (1-0) worked an efficient three-out inning in the top of the ninth to earn the win on the mound. Redshirt sophomore starter Elijah Seitz combined with relievers redshirt junior Bradley Neill, redshirt junior Cason Long and junior Cross Dowd to limit the Griffons to three runs and eight hits over the first eight innings of work.

“It was just exciting getting to play on this beautiful day. A little windy, but glad to get the opportunity to go and do something big for my team,” Bruce said.

Gorilla basketball wins one, drops one

Curtis Meyer reporter



Freshman management student Ethan Sage slam dunks the ball for two points. Sage played for a total of 37 minutes on Thursday night against Nebraska. | Photo by Christopher Law

It was the second week in a row that Pitt State basketball won a game and dropped one in the same week as they hosted the final two home games of the season. The Gorillas now sit 15-12 in the season, sitting on the edge of the MIAA tournament.

The week started on a Thursday night, as the Gorillas hosted the Nebraska Kearney Lopers. Pitt State held a 41-35 lead at halftime and was able to build on that for an 86-70 win over the Lopers. The Gorillas shot 51.8 percent from the field in the game, making 29 of 56 attempts. Pitt State also generated 21 points at the foul line, converting 21 of 27 charity shots.

Freshman Mason English led all scorers with 25 points in the game, while fellow freshman Ethan Sage posted his second double-double of the season with 18 points and a season-best 14 rebounds. Sophomore David Cobin Jr. also scored a career-high 14 points and fellow sophomore Alijah Curry added 12 points. English also totaled seven rebounds, six assists, and four steals.

Pitt State then prepared to face the Fort Hays Tigers on Saturday, ultimately falling 56-65. The Gorillas only trailed by nine points, 31-22, at halftime, and were even able to take a one-point lead twice in the second half, including one with just six and a half minutes to go. It would prove to be for naught, as the Tigers went on a run late to close out the game, and the Gorillas were unable to keep pace.

Redshirt junior Donald Coats and English paced the Gorillas with 12 points apiece, while Curry added 10 points. Coats posted his second double-double of the season by adding 13 rebounds to his scoring total. Junior Connor Rogers chipped in with nine points, while redshirt junior Hayden Shanks finished with eight.

Despite the close loss, Pitt State has clinched a position in the MIAA tournament, although they currently sit as the last seed. The final two games will be a tough test for Pitt State, as they play #3 ranked Washburn, currently at 16-1 in the MIAA Conference, followed by another road game against Central Missouri, sitting 12-5 in second place in the MIAA Conference. More than likely, Pitt State will end up playing one of these two teams in the MIAA tournament, so this will be a good matchup for the Gorillas to test their mettle.

The MIAA tournament will take place in Kansas City, MO, at the Municipal Auditorium.



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"Like a good neighbor state farm is there"

Serving local and International students

PSU food pantry offers food and hygiene resources

Caroline Kunshek reporter

Located in the Campus and Community Resource Center (CCRC), the Gorilla Pantry provides students with the food and hygiene products they need. While many college students face high grocery expenses, the purpose of the pantry is to help mitigate those financial struggles.

Assistant Director for Campus and Community Resources Kennedy Cooper explained the benefit of this food bank, saying, “I know when I was in college, sometimes I had a hard time trying to get food, it’s expensive, and it just keeps getting more expensive. So, if you’re just trying to get something to eat over the weekend or you can’t make it to the dining hall, or wherever you get your food, you can stop by and get it.”

The pantry offers a variety of products and receives much of the product from the Kansas Food Bank.

“Pretty consistently we have cereal, rice, ramen, pasta, mac n cheese, just stuff to make easy meals with,” Cooper said. “Then we also try to have snacks and random little drinks. Sparkling water, and sometimes we have energy drinks.”

Along with food, the pantry sets students up for good hygienic habits. “We also offer basic hygiene products like shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, razors, all the stuff you’d need to keep yourself clean,” Cooper said.

The pantry has provided several resources this semester already. “So far this semester, we’ve had 172 uses- That’s not unique people, but uses,” Cooper said.

Cooper emphasized that the pantry is designed for any and all students. “It’s open to all PSU students,” Cooper said. “There are no requirements, you can just come in and take what you need. All we ask is that you scan our QR code and fill out the form.”

She added that many students don’t realize that the resource is for them. “A lot of people are hesitant to come to the food pantry cause they’re like, ‘Oh, this isn’t for me,’ but it literally is, like, for everyone,” she said. “So, I really want to make that clear.”

The food pantry ensures that students can cook the food they pick up. “We also have a microwave and stuff, so if you get food and you need a place to cook it between classes, you can come here to do that,” Cooper added.

For those hoping to donate, the food bank isn’t picky. “We’ll take pretty much anything,” Cooper said. “I will say our most popular items are snacks and microwave meals, so I’ll say those are the most needed.”

There are several other on-campus resources in the CCRC that help set students up for success.

“In our office specifically, we have the food and hygiene pantry, and we have our clothes closet for if they ever need professional clothes. But we also have some casual clothes like jackets, Pitt State, and jeans too, so if you ever need clothes, you can come to us,” Cooper explained. “We also offer free printing, and if students are in need of more direct one-on-one support, we also offer the Sparkwheel program, which can help students with success coaching.”

The CCRC is found at the lower level of the Overman Student Center and is open to all students from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. Monday through Friday.

Students have fun singing



Grad student in history Kezie Pearson is singing “Popular” from Wicked. Black Student Association hosted the karaoke event on February 18th. | Photo by Ava Keitzman



Grad student in history Kezie Pearson and senior music performance major Jocelyn Goodwin are performing a duet together. The song was “What is this feeling?” from Wicked. | Photo by Ava Keitzman

Turning the Wheel: Wind Ensemble prepares for state spotlight

Mathew Dains reporter

The Pittsburg State University Wind Ensemble filled the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts with music on Sunday, Feb. 22. Their performance served as both a showcase for the department and a preview of what’s to come on a bigger stage.

The concert marked the ensemble’s final local performance before traveling to Wichita for the Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA) State Convention.

At the heart of the performance was “Carmina Burana,” a piece based on medieval poetry from the 11th and 12th centuries and famously set to music

by German composer Carl Orff. The wind ensemble arrangement performed on Sunday was adapted by John Krance in the 1960s.

The program concluded with “Sound and Smoke” by Viet Cuong, bringing the emotional cycle to an energetic close.

Following the performance, the ensemble director described the concert as the result of months of demanding preparation.

“I don’t think there’s anyone here who could just handle it without making huge strides,” Director Dr. Andrew Chybowski said. “Some were either going to have to step up, or it wasn’t going to work.”

The repertoire, Chybowski explained, pushed every section technically and musically. Students responded by committing additional time outside scheduled rehearsals. Some met for extra practice sessions, including weekends, to improve difficult passages.

“They didn’t have to come on Saturday morning, but they did,” Chybowski said. “They’ve definitely been putting in the work.”

Preparation was not limited to students. Faculty members across the music department contributed by attending rehearsals, offering feedback, and working with performers individually during lessons.

“It’s been a team effort from the faculty as well,” Chybowski noted.

the invitation, preparation for the program began in August 2025.

“We’ve been working on this music since then,” de la Cruz said. “We played a few of these pieces at other concerts already, but this was kind of our prep concert before Wichita.”

While preparation came with challenges, de la Cruz emphasized that the most recent month has shown the greatest improvement.

“This past month has been the most beneficial,” de la Cruz said. “We’ve really been working on the small details that take it to the next level.”

He described the experience as demanding but deeply rewarding.

It’s been fun putting it all together, de la Cruz added.

The Wind Ensemble will perform at KMEA. The event hosts hundreds of band directors, university faculty, alumni, and some of the most accomplished high school musicians from across the state.

“It’s a great chance to show off and let people see what we’re doing here in Pittsburg,” Chybowski said. “We’re kind of a best-kept secret here in Southeast Kansas.”

The opportunity carries both honor and responsibility. An earlier invitation to perform at the convention had to be declined due to severe winter weather. This year, the ensemble is taking extra precautions to ensure nothing interferes with the trip this go-round.

“We’re going the night before to make sure nothing stops us from performing,” Chybowski explained.

Traveling to Wichita requires a charter bus, overnight accommodations, and meals, expenses that exceed the ensemble’s typical annual budget. To help offset costs, the department has been accepting donations from community members.

Still, Chybowski stressed that community support goes beyond financial contributions.

“The most important thing is that you’re here,” he told Sunday’s audience.

As the ensemble prepares to take the stage in Wichita, Sunday’s performance at the Bicknell Center functions as both a milestone and a launching point for the ensemble.

For de la Cruz and his fellow musicians, the upcoming performance represents more than another concert. It is the chance to represent Pittsburg State University before a statewide audience; a moment earned through discipline, determination, and dedication.

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Shopping second-hand should be the first choice

Emma Forst design chief

Turning to the past, a rising fashion trend has emerged in recent years. Shopping second-hand has become a trend on social media, a sustainable trend that has many environmental, philanthropic, and financial benefits, all while keeping your style unique.

Shopping secondhand is a great method to add to your personal style. From clothes to furniture and house ware, buying used items can be beneficial to the environment, philanthropy efforts, and your wallet.

Producing new clothing can heavily impact the environment, adding to the world’s pollution and carbon emission levels. According to an article by Business Insider, “The fashion industry produces 10% of all humanity’s carbon emissions, is the second-largest consumer of the world’s water supply, and pollutes the oceans with microplastics.”

Overall, producing new clothing items takes more time, energy, and water; in turn, causing environmental and social issues.

When buying second-hand, all these efforts have been made. No additional production, marketing, and societal costs are necessary, lowering the end cost of the items at second-hand stores, like thrift stores. One of the most common reasons to start shopping for used items is the financial benefits. The cost difference between shopping for new and second-hand is substantial.

One method of shopping second-hand is thrifting. Proceeds from thrift stores commonly go towards charity or non-profit efforts, including chain stores like Goodwill, Salvation Army, and local stores here

in Pittsburg, like The Doggie Bag, where 100% of their proceeds go to the SEK Humane Society.

Being more conscious of shopping efforts has been gaining traction in fashion and lifestyle trends. Following the trend, upcycling is also rising in popularity. Upcycling transforms by-products, or unwanted products into new materials or products of better quality while also personalizing the item.

This method is a great idea to repurpose unwanted items into one-of-a-kind items. Designers use this method to make sustainable high-end items like ELV Denim, which repurposes denim products, one of the most expensive products to produce initially. ELV Denim said in an article by The Guardian, “Once retailers are aware that not only is upcycling a creative and conscious way to use excess stock but a revenue-generating way, I hope other companies will sit up and take note.” As sustainability becomes an issue of interest, upcycling is a great option for people and industries to explore.

With second-hand shopping becoming more people’s first choice, the efforts have become digitally accessible. Apps like DePop, Poshmark, and ThredUp, being the biggest platforms, allow more options for these sustainable methods to reach.

Choosing to be more sustainable with your shopping choices is more accessible than ever. Allowing for discovering new styles and aesthetics without adding to environmental and social issues, shopping second-hand should be the first choice when looking to add to your closet, decorate, or furnish your home.

Olympics brings more than snow

Masynn Acheson reporter

With every Olympics, no matter the season, there are always plenty of controversies and scandals to go around. With the 2026 Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics, there were a few that gained notable news coverage and media outrage.

Several well-known news sources hopped onto one story, which was dubbed an inappropriate name involving male genitalia. Male skiers were injecting hyaluronic acid into their genitals to increase the size, and according to sources like The New York Times, the logic is that with the increased size, their suits would stretch out, and wind would get caught in them, making them fly faster.

If you are not sure how to feel about that, you would not be alone. The whole idea of it working seems ridiculous, much less going as far as possibly maiming yourself in such a sensitive body part just does not seem worth any medal. On one hand, it has a small chance of helping you win, and while that would give a huge rush of pride for years to come, but if something goes wrong and you do not win on top of it? Massive risk, limited reward.

Unlike the men’s skiing event, the pairs figure skating event was shrouded in controversy for a whole other reason. For this event,

there were no drugs, injections, or anything of the like. While there was a lot of celebration when the French pair figure skaters won the gold, there was tension among fans and judges.

The French was not the favorite to win, instead, it was the American pair. The French pair of figure skaters made several errors in their routine while the American team had few to no errors in theirs. When the announcement of victory was made, the score cards were immediately brought into question. It turns out, that the French judge had rated the French team a whole point higher than the American team. He gave the French team 137.45 points, while giving the American team 129.74 points.

This was the largest point discrepancy among all the scores given. For context, the score he gave the American team was an average of 5 points lower than what the other judges gave them, while the score he gave the French skaters was an average of 3 points higher than the others. When that kind of discrepancy is seen in a sport where literal fractions of a point can determine a win from a loss, there must be something amiss. There cannot be that large of a gap in scoring without buyouts or heavy bias clouding the judgement from the judge.

The difference in tone between these two scandals alone is telling of what kind of shenanigans and biases that can happen during the games. That is without getting into what can happen before the games while the Olympic Village is being built. In such a high level of competition and talent, where even the smallest advantage means the difference between bringing home a victory for your entire country, or coming home empty handed, people get desperate, and everything is under scrutiny.

Michael Jackson guilty in the Epstein files?

Caroline Kunshek reporter

Michael Jackson, the worldwide sensation known as the “King of Pop,” had several controversies throughout his career. To this day, the public is split on whether they believe the many accusations thrown at him. Since the release of the Epstein files, his name has become relevant once more. But do these files really make him out to be guilty?

From bleaching his skin to behaving inappropriately with children, accusations were thrown at him left and right. Most notably, he was accused of sexual abuse of a child in 1993, which ended in a civil settlement, and a different child in 2003, which resulted in a criminal trial. In 2019, a documentary was released called “Leaving Neverland,” in which two men alleged long-term abuse by Jackson during their childhoods, but these accusations were later dismissed in court.

It’s important to note that while the FBI had an ongoing investigation on Jackson for years, they never found anything that was cause for concern. He was not found guilty and was acquitted of all charges. More recently, a few of the children who he was accused of behaving inappropriately with, including Macaulay Culkin, came out as adults to say that he was innocent. They claimed that their parents had told them to speak out against him, assuredly for the money. In the eyes of the law, Michael Jackson kept his innocence until his death in 2009.

During a wave of Epstein file releases earlier this year, a photo of Jackson and President Bill Clinton on one of Epstein’s properties was revealed, showing the two alongside Diana Ross and a few children, whose faces were redacted from the image. There was also another image released of Jackson standing next to Epstein. Of course, this caused a stir of conversation between Michael Jackson defenders and the people who still believe he was a creep who got away with too much. Why was he on Epstein’s property, and why with children?

While the image was very suspicious, witnesses have come out to explain that Jackson meeting Epstein was a coincidence - he was touring properties to buy in Palm Beach and ran into Epstein. The children featured in the image with Clinton included his daughter, Paris, and his son, Prince, along with Ross’s son. On top of this, Epstein’s crimes were not out of the bag at the time these photos were taken.

One of these witnesses was a victim of Epstein who, under oath, described the high-profile people who went to the island. She testified that she did see Michael Jackson on this day, and when asked if he had done anything inappropriate, she confirmed that he had not.

So, he wasn’t guilty about the release of the Epstein files. Still, this got people talking, and people started speculating that the theme park built on Michael Jackson’s property, called Neverland, was actually some sort of haven used to protect children who were set to be trafficked onto the island. The conspiracy says that Jackson found out about Epstein and wanted to protect the children, even though the corrupt government wouldn’t help. Some even go as far as to say that this may have had something to do with Jackson’s suspicious death in 2009.

While I believe that this would be in character for him, it is simply not true. Michael Jackson was known in Hollywood to be quite a whistle blower. If he saw something, he did not hesitate to say something. Jackson met Epstein briefly in Palm Beach, but they never met aside from that isolated incident. Epstein and his people knew better than letting Jackson know about the island.

Neverland was simply built as a way for Jackson to relive the childhood that was stolen from him as a child star, and to share that joy with children. But whether it was a predator or a protector, there is no link between Michael Jackson and Jeffrey Epstein.

Pittsburg State’s esports begin spring 2026 season

Mark Ziegler reporter

Pittsburg State’s eight competitive esports teams have officially begun their seasons, which behave like any other sporting season- a schedule of regular season matches, the results of which determine their placements in the playoff brackets. Pittsburg State competes in the PlayVS College League (PCL,) an esports focused league that offers a total of 14 titles for college students to play in. The Gorillas play in seven of those titles, and are coached by Gabriel Cozart, a member of Housing and an alumnus of Pittsburg State who often operates with the username “Beast.”

“I find coaching to be a fulfilling way to spend my time,” said Cozart. Despite the stresses of managing schedules and finding time and space to help, Cozart enjoys seeing the players improve in real time, seeing his teachings being applied in matches giving him a sense of satisfaction.

The PCL offers two divisions for playing- Premier, which is for higher ranked teams, and ranked, which is for lower ranked teams. This semester, Pittsburg State has one team participating in the Premier Division; that team being the Rocket League team. Rocket League is a fast-paced take on soccer, where two teams of three drive cars around a stadium, trying to score goals with a ball. The Gorilla Rocket League team is captained by “Colbz,” real name Colby Riddle, a senior majoring in biology, pre-med. Riddle, who started playing Rocket League in 2018, enjoys the game for how, in his eyes, the only real way to win is with skill. Being the captain of the team, Riddle is very appreciative towards his teammates.

“A lot of the time I am the point of contact, but I often don’t have the most time or availability,” Riddle said about his jobs as a captain; however, he knows he has Cozart and his teammates to help him out when he needs it. “I can rely on my two teammates to schedule a scrimmage, or message an opponent if I’m not immediately available.”

The Gorilla Rocket League team is currently 2-2 on the season, which ties them for fourth place overall in their division along with the University of Cincinnati’s team. PCL Rocket League play is on

Tuesday nights.

This semester, Pittsburg State was able to welcome back most of their earlier teams that had competed in the previous semester, as well as a new addition to the Gorilla esports family- a team for Marvel Rivals. The game was released on Dec. 6, 2024, making it the newest game amongst all the titles the PCL has to offer. However, Marvel Rivals skyrocketed to fame overnight and was a highly requested team amongst Pittsburg State students to get off the ground. In PCL competition, Marvel Rivals is a best-of-five type of game, each with different rounds of play. Players use different characters from across the Marvel universe to play, each character having their own unique skills and abilities. Pittsburg State’s Marvel Rivals team is captained by sophomore computer science major Brendan McAllister, who competes under the username “DredgenG.”

“Going into this I had no intention of being captain. I am new to the school and didn’t know anybody here, but when the application was sent out, I thought that it could be an educational and challenging experience.” McAllister said. This is his first semester at Pittsburg State, but McAllister has found enjoyment in being captain, using each match and practice as a way to strategize future matches.

The Marvel Rivals team generally plays on Monday nights, and the Gorillas currently have a 1-1 record, putting them fourth overall in the rankings for their division.

Fans across campus and beyond can watch Pittsburg State’s esports teams play on the official Pittsburg State Twitch. League of Legends and Marvel Rivals compete on Monday nights, Rainbow 6: Siege and Rocket League on Tuesdays, Overwatch plays on Wednesdays, and Counter-Strike 2 and both of Pittsburg State’s Super Smash Bros. Ultimate teams play on Fridays.

Bill Gates speaks on Epstein

Glenn Gamboa and James Pollard
Associated Press

Bill Gates addressed his connection to convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and “took responsibility for his actions” during a town hall meeting of his nonprofit Gates Foundation on Tuesday, the nonprofit said.

“Bill spoke candidly, addressing several questions in detail,” a Gates Foundation spokesperson said in a statement.

Gates appears multiple times in the Justice Department’s release of documents connected to its investigation of the late financier. The Justice Department’s files include email correspondence between Gates and Epstein about philanthropic projects, calendar entries documenting dates they got together, and photos of Gates at events the two men attended.

Gates has not been accused of any wrongdoing in connection to Epstein and denies any knowledge of Epstein’s crimes. Gates has said he had met with Epstein to discuss philanthropy and believed he could help Gates raise money for issues like global health. “Every minute that I spent with him I regret and I apologize that I did that,” Gates told Australia’s 9News earlier this month.

Photos and mentions of Gates in the Epstein files have attracted increased attention since the Justice Department released millions of documents last month. Last week, Gates pulled out of delivering the keynote address at the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi “to ensure the focus remains on the AI Summit’s key priorities.”

Melinda French Gates, who exited the Gates Foundation in 2024 to focus on her philanthropy through Pivotal Ventures, said her ex-husband must “answer to those things” when asked about his ties to Epstein. Both Gates and French Gates have said that his relationship with Epstein created problems in their marriage.

Police video shows Vince McMahon’s 100 mph car crash in Connecticut

Dave Collins Associated Press

Newly released police video shows former WWE CEO Vince McMahon’s high-speed car crash in Connecticut last summer and reveals that a state trooper was trying to catch up to him to pull him over at the time.

McMahon, now 80, was driving his 2024 Bentley Continental GT on the Merritt Parkway in Westport on July 24 — coincidentally, the same day that WWE legend Hulk Hogan died of a heart attack in Florida. State police said the Bentley, which can cost over \$300,000, was going 100 mph (160 kph) or more.

“Why were you driving all over 100 mph?” state police Detective Maxwell Robins asks McMahon after the crash, according to police body cam video. McMahon replies, “I got my granddaughter’s birthday” and explains he was on his way to see her.

Robins’ dash cam video shows McMahon driving northbound in the right lane when he approaches a BMW in the same lane, appears to hit the brakes and swerves into the left lane at the last second. The Bentley clipped the rear of the other car before smashing into the left lane guardrail and careening back onto the highway, creating a cloud of dirt and car parts. McMahon then stops in the right shoulder.

No one was seriously injured in the crash, police said. Besides damage to the rear of the BMW, another vehicle driving on the opposite side of the parkway was struck by flying debris. The driver of that third car happened to be wearing a WWE shirt.

McMahon was cited for reckless driving and following too closely. A state judge in October allowed McMahon to enter a pretrial probation program that will result in the charges being erased from his record next October if he successfully completes the program. He was also ordered to make a \$1,000 charitable contribution.

State police said Robins was trying to catch up to McMahon on the parkway and clock his speed before pulling him over. They said the incident was not a pursuit, which happens when police chase someone trying to flee officers. They said it did not appear McMahon was trying to escape the trooper

Police video shows Robins telling McMahon about his efforts to catch up to McMahon. “I’m trying to catch up to you and you keep taking off,” Robins says. “No, no no. I’m not trying to outrun you,” McMahon says.

An accident information summary provided to the media shortly after the crash did not mention that a trooper was following McMahon.

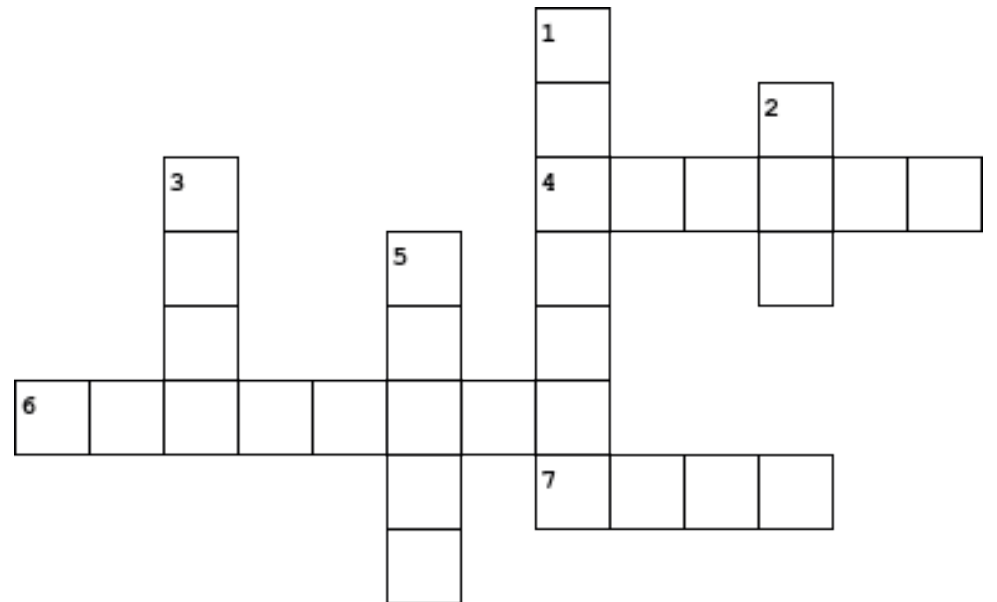
The Associated Press obtained the videos Wednesday through a public records request. They were first obtained by The Sun newspaper.

Police body cameras recorded troopers’ interactions with McMahon on the side of the highway.

Robins tells McMahon that he doesn’t understand why McMahon didn’t change lanes sooner to avoid the crash and asks whether he was looking at his phone. McMahon denies looking at his phone and adds that he hadn’t driven his car in a long time.

CROSSWORD: Pitt State Trivia

Send a picture of your completed puzzle to @Collegio.PSU on Instagram for a chance to win a prize! ***Correct answers will be listed in the next edition**



Across

- 4. School pride acronym
- 6. Visiting on April 9th
- 7. Building with a marble staircase

Down

- 1. The yoga gorilla outside of the Overman
- 2. Always hosting the best student events
- 3. Freshmen had never seen it until this week
- 5. School yearbook



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Wind Ensemble Program accompanied by Dr. Marie Smith's horn solo at the Wind Ensemble Concert Sunday evening. The concert opening with Symphonic Band under the direction of Jobey Wilson. | Photo by Mat Dains



Freshman forensic chemistry major Makhila Maupin is singing at a karaoke event in the U-club hosted by BSA on February 18th. Her song of choice was "Foolish" by Ashanti. | Photo by Ava Keitzman



Gavin Burdette begins his performance with his trombone. He preformed Concertino for Trombone and Orchestra by Fredinand David. | Photo by Jack Bruntz



David opens his performance with the David Osborne Trio in the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts Feb. 18. David Osborne is an alumni of Pitt State from the music department. | Photo by Kaylee Dillow



Jack Stefanoni, a music major, begins his performance with a violin bow on a vibraphone. He performed Concerto for Vibraphone and Strings by Emmanuel Séjourné. | Photo by Jack Bruntz

Pittsburg matchas from worst to best

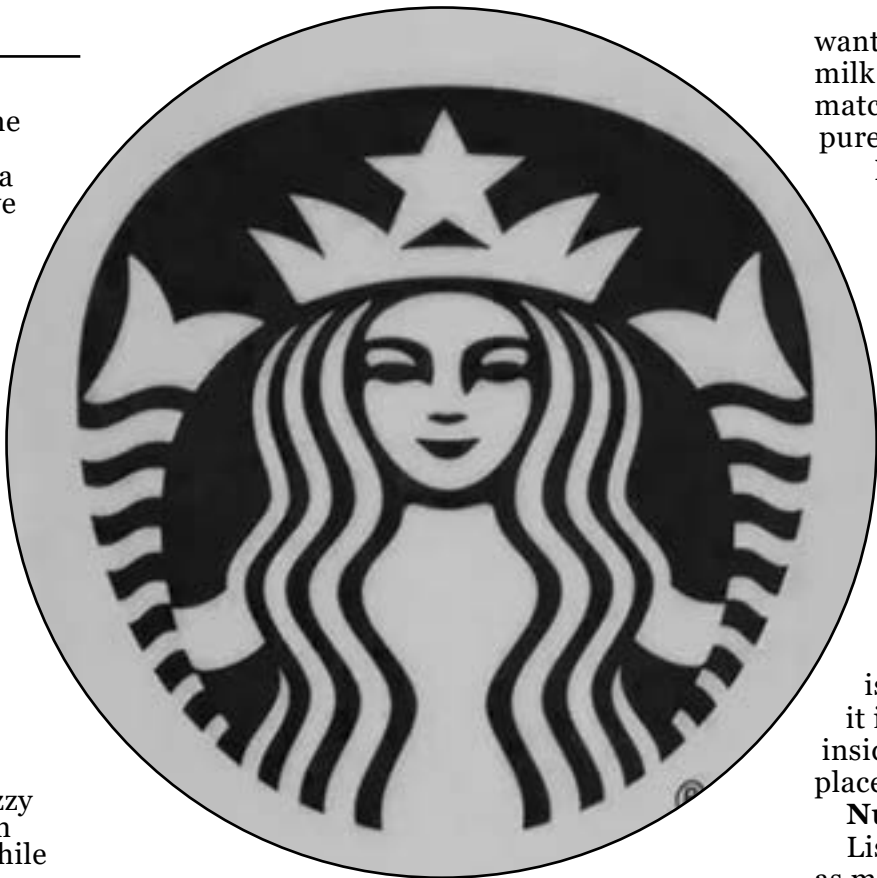
Caroline Kunshek reporter

In the past several years, matcha tea has become more globally popular than ever. The green drink originated in 7th-10th century China and has a rich traditional history. As a healthier, slightly less caffeinated alternative to coffee, matcha became a worldwide social media staple during everybody's mid-pandemic health kick. Because of this growing popularity, Pittsburg now has several options for purchasing a matcha on the go, and none of them taste quite the same as the next. Here are my rankings for my favorite matcha lattes of Pittsburg.

Number six: Scooter's Coffee
My personal least favorite matcha is Scooter's matcha. Scooter's offers a matcha latte that is somehow never quite mixed enough. This sentiment also extends to the Scooter's in Fort Scott. While the taste is okay, I have never ordered a matcha from a Scooter's in which there were no giant matcha powder clumps piled around the drink. Aside from this, the flavor is acceptable, but not preferable.

Number five: 7 Brew
From extensive coffee combinations to fizzy energy drinks, 7 Brew has no shortage of fun drinks to offer the tired college students. While I'm definitely a huge fan of their flavored lemonades, their matchas are borderline flavorless. My theory is that while their cup sizes can get so large, their amount of matcha powder is too little and gets watered down. They must add too much milk to fill the cup. However, if the flavor of matcha makes you think of grass, but the concept makes your Instagram persona happy, 7 Brew would be a great place to add different flavors to the drink and drown out the earthy notes.

Number four: Starbucks (Broadway Street)
Specifically referring to Starbucks on



| Photo courtesy of Amazon

Broadway Street, I would not rank their matcha very highly. In fact, I would probably rank it last if it were not for the ability to add extra scoops of matcha powder. This matcha is so bland and watered down; it is almost nothing but milk and ice. It is especially bad when ordering an iced matcha ahead; your drink will 100% be mostly water from the melted ice. No matcha to be found. This can be slightly remedied by adding extra matcha scoops (which is unfortunate if you

want less caffeine). There are simply too much milk and ice. I am, however, a huge fan of the matcha Frappuccino, especially with strawberry puree added.

Number three: Quick Sip
I really have no complaints about matcha from Quick Sip. They add plenty of powder and mix it well every time. The flavor is great, and it tastes very similar to an authentic matcha without a bunch of extra sweeteners. Quick Sip is easily a top contender for me.

Number two: The Balkan
The Balkan makes a great matcha, and offers a flavored variant called the "Mine Dust" (I prefer it without the pistachio). The matcha tastes authentic and is always mixed to perfection. Even better, The Balkan is on the south side of town, making it extra convenient for Pitt State students. It is a local business, conveniently located, and it is delicious. If you have the extra time to go inside instead of using a drive-thru, this is the place to go.

Number 1: The Library Starbucks
Listen, I hate putting Starbucks in first place as much as the next small-business supporter. However, there is something so good about the matcha in the Pitt State library's Starbucks specifically. I am not sure what they do differently than Starbucks on Broadway, but the milk to matcha ratio is perfect, and I have never been disappointed. The flavor is amazing and strong, and it gives me just the pick-me-up I need during long library days. The best part is that it is right there on campus. The convenience and the flavor cannot be topped, and I will choose this matcha any day.

‘Wuthering Heights’ movie review

Mat Dains reporter

“Wuthering Heights” premiered on Feb. 13 and was directed by Emerald Fennell. The movie is a feverish, stylized reimaging of the classic Emily Brontë novel. Known for her provocative works in “Promising Young Woman” and “Salt Burn,” Fennell approaches Brontë’s classic not as a sacred text but as raw material. The result is a film that is visually arresting and emotionally punishing, but not without controversy.

The most glaring issue with the film is the casting of Heathcliff. Traditionally portrayed as racially ambiguous and explicitly described as dark-skinned, Heathcliff’s outsider status is central to the story’s tension around class and otherness. Fennell’s casting choice dilutes the racial and social marginalization that fuels Heathcliff’s alienation and build-up to vengeance. This adaptation severely risks reframing his rage as purely romantic obsession rather than the byproduct of systematic racism, cruelty, and prejudice. I can see the intention of Fennell’s idea of universalizing Heathcliff’s animosity as a threat all men are capable of, but still, the casting choice comes off as either tone-deaf to the struggles of people of color or blatant whitewashing.

Fennell’s adaptation also diverges from the novel’s intricate narrative structure, a broad, layered storytelling filter through the perspectives of Lockwood and Nelly, that creates emotional distance through ambiguity, allowing readers to question the narrators’ reliability. Fennell discards much of this framing device, opting for a more immediate, biased, linear narrative. The removal of these mediating voices streamlines the plot but sacrifices the novel’s haunting sense of generational storytelling. This results in the movie lacking the book’s second arc. By the end of the movie, Fennell’s framing of Nelly’s actions shifts the entire plot, making her an antagonistic character.

Another major change in this adaptation is the total absence of any supernatural gothic elements from the original novel, the removal of ghosts, and the omission of the second half of the book, which further removes yet another layer of Brontë’s deep multigenerational storytelling.

Yet for all its omissions, Wuthering Heights is undeniably cohesive and thematically focused. She strips the story to its most volatile core, emphasizing the destructive intensity between Catherine and Heathcliff. Tenderness curdles into manipulation. Love becomes indistinguishable from mental domination. By narrowing its lens, the film transforms a sprawling Gothic saga into a claustrophobic character study.

In the end, Fennell’s adaptation may frustrate novel puritans, but it succeeds as an amateur-driven interpretation. It is less concerned with fidelity than with feeling, specifically the ugliness of attachment, shades of feeling, and longing. This Wuthering Heights plunges headfirst into obsession, revenge, depravity, and cruelty, and appears not as a faithful retelling but as a bold, unsettling excavation of love at its most corrosive state.

Now, from my personal experience watching movies in theaters, I would have to say that, from the beginning to the middle of the movie, you begin to be drawn into phenomenal storytelling and develop a vested interest in one or the other characters. But by the end of the movie, despite the tragic ending, I don’t feel compelled to cry or feel sorry for any of the characters in the film. Mainly due to the amount of cruelty you see, every single character in this movie undertakes, and by the end, you feel a bleak, sterile ending.

‘Twisted (2026)’ is surely perfect

Bryce Bicknell reporter

Despite all the problems with “Twisted (2026),” directed by Darren Lynn Bousman, it proves to be a deeply enjoyable movie, though maybe for all the wrong reasons. Coming from the man who has directed four “Saw” movies, you can see that series’ DNA everywhere. It transcends a level beyond good or bad and needs to be seen to be believed.

“Twisted (2026)” stars Djimon Hounsou as Dr. Kezian, Lauren LaVera as Paloma, Mia Healy as Smith, and Neal McDonough as Bradshaw. Set in New York City, Paloma and Smith, lovers, run a realtor scam where they rent a house while pretending to put it out on the market, earning them tens of thousands of dollars. Paloma takes on various aliases from classic literature leading police to begin an investigation.

Meanwhile, Dr. Kezian is a world-renowned neural surgeon whose wife, who was also a doctor, passed away, and he is trying to make a breakthrough in neural transplants. Kezian is frustrated with the bureaucracy of the system and his superior Bradshaw. Paloma decides to rent Dr. Kezian’s house, which she then shows people in an attempt to scam them. A prospective buyer tries to hit her; she rejects his advances leading to a fight with Kezian sees on his cameras. He subdues the attacker and figures out Paloma’s scam. Kezian kidnaps her in an attempt to use her to advance science. All of that happens within the first 30 minutes of the movie, and it only gets crazier from there.

All the actors here are great, and you can empathize with each of them. Kezian is dealing with grief from the loss of his wife, leading him to take a drastic, but in his eyes, necessary action. Paloma is an orphan, and she only scams because it’s how she has survived all these years. They are both dealing with grief, and it’s the core theme of the film.

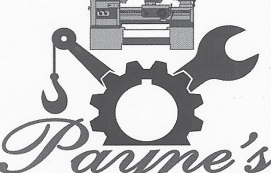
Hounsou’s acting especially knocks it out of the park, and he carries a lot of movies. The plot itself is full of holes, but one can overlook that because of how much fun the film has. The movie goes by fast with its 90-minute run time, and it uses all of it. The pacing is downright perfect, something a lot of movies struggle with. The editing only deepens the absurd nature of the movie with split screen shots and other unique choices. Despite its label as a horror thriller, the movie is rather hilarious. “Twisted” on most levels is not a good movie. One could even say that at points it is so bad that it is good. What it is is an entertaining movie you can completely turn your brain off to and enjoy the complete absurdity of.

In a sense, there aren’t a lot of movies like that anymore, with of course the closest comparison being the “Saw” franchise. Movies that are supposed to be these bloody horror-filled thrillers end up being intentionally hilarious. Overall, if you are looking for something to just mindlessly enjoy with friends or family, “Twisted (2026)” is perfect for that. On a pure enjoyment-based rating, it gets an 8.1/10.



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