



Oval reopens after major infrastructure upgrade



Carlos Aguilar leads a tour across the newly reopened Oval, showing students and visitors the upgraded campus space. The improvements include modern utility tunnels, safer pathways, and fresh green spaces at the center of Pittsburg State University. | Photo by Kaylee Dillow

Kaylee Dillow photo editor

After months of construction, the heart of Pittsburg State University's campus, the Oval, is now open once again, welcoming back students, faculty, and the community. The reopening also marks the progress of a major underground utility tunnel project, ensuring that the campus' core infrastructure is safe, reliable, and ready for the future.

"Efficient, safe pedestrian routes are again open, and prime gathering space at the center of the Oval is available to be enjoyed by the community," Lindell Haverstic said, the university architect and director of planning, design, and construction.

He cautioned the campus community to remain on the sidewalk rather than travel across the new soft and rooting sod until Facility Operations remove signage.

The closure, while inconvenient to many, was necessary in order to allow for the installation of new utility tunnels, previously replacing many of the failing original tunnels. These older tunnels, some of which date back to 1913, carry steam heat, chilled water, domestic water, and other utilities to 21 core buildings across campus.

"They are crucial for much of our original core campus to function," Haverstic said. "The tunnels may typically be out of sight, but never out of mind. The tunnel system delivers steam from our Physical Plant to 21 buildings. They must also provide

safe working conditions for PSU's Facility Operations teams to complete routine utility service and repairs."

"The width, height, and lighting of the new tunnels are impressive in their own right and just plain awesome in comparison to the original," Haverstic shared.

The new tunnel sections provide utility paths to Russ, Porter, Kelce, Hughes, Horace Mann, Whitesitt, and McCray, as well as a conduit for steam and condensate leaving or returning to the physical plant.

Construction revealed some unexpected issues including sanitary sewer and storm sewer issues that needed repaired. Despite these challenges, operations stayed ahead of schedule, with the original reopening predicted to be in April, not February.

"The project allowed for broader improvements to the space as well. The closure of the Oval allowed for improvements to site drainage, sidewalks, and lawns within the work zone," Haverstic said. "Campus Grounds also coordinated opportunities to remove some plantings that no longer served the campus well."

During construction, the closure affected the daily routines of the campus community. "Students, staff, and community members adjusted where they parked and how they walked across campus and accessed some buildings," Haverstic noted. "Some campus events that traditionally utilized the Oval had to utilize alternative sites such as Cleveland Plaza or

Lindburg Plaza."

Now, the Oval is restored back to full functionality and as the center of campus life, offering improved pathways and an open gathering space.

The new tunnel infrastructure promises long-term benefits for the university. "The completed infrastructure will yield enormous benefits and allow the 21 buildings serviced by the tunnels to operate safely and reliably for another hundred years of student, faculty, staff, and constituent use," Haverstic said.

The project also aligns with the universities master plan, continuing to support growth while preserving the functionality of historical campus buildings.

Even with the Oval reopening, additional work is planned for the summer. Haverstic shared how the original tunnels replaced by the new installations will be filled with flowable fill over the summer, as well as the east leg of Lindburg reopening to traffic after work new the Physical Plant completes. Other projects include roof replacements on Horace Mann and roof recoveries on Dellinger and Nation Halls, all near the campus core.

The reopening of the Oval is more than just the return of a campus staple. It reflects Pitt State's commitment to maximizing their campus, including modernizing their infrastructures, maintaining historical campus buildings, and creating a safe and enjoyable environment for all students and staff.

Employers come to Pitt State

Masynn Acheson reporter

The Wood Product Manufacturing Day, hosted from Feb. 26 to Feb. 27, is a two-day event set up by faculty to allow students to network with businesses. The first day held presentations, table presentations, and dinner in the evening. The second day was dedicated to interviews.

Professor Jordan Backs described the day as an opportunity for companies to "come in from all over the United States," with some coming from as far as Florida and Reno, Nevada. Some came from the Virginia area, too. "They do a presentation in the morning, table time in the afternoon, and then on Friday mornings they do the interviews."

Only the top eight companies who donated at least \$1,000 were allowed to present. Companies do presentations to raise money for new equipment, equipment repairs, and scholarships for students as well as to speak on their assorted topics. According to Professor Backs, the donations totaled to be around \$21,000 this year.

This year, 20 companies were in attendance, and many students came to arrange an internship or full-time job with them. However, for some wood product manufacturing students like Brady Cook, a junior in the program and president of the S.A.W. Club, the event simply helps them to network with the companies. "I just enjoy talking to all the companies and just creating that relationship," Cook said.

Many of the companies in attendance are either owned by or represented by Pittsburg State University alumni, such as Pitt State graduate Bob Holloway. He graduated from the Wood Product Manufacturing program in 2004 and now owns Advantage Architectural Woodwork. Holloway has attended on behalf of his company for the last five or so years and said, "This time was quite a bit different." He said that this year, "there was a lot more student engagement, and a really engaging freshman class."

Being the president of the Society of Architectural Woodworkers, Cook said that "it put [him] in a position to become a leader and try to set an example for the upcoming officers or president." Having experience in areas relevant to your chosen field not only looks great on resumes, but provides skills needed for those jobs as well.

Hannah Reilly is a junior dual majoring in wood product manufacturing and career and technical education with a Spanish minor. She said that she has "developed a close relationship with a lot of people because they come every year after year." After the table time is over for the day, there is a dinner all the companies attend where students can come to talk with them in a less formal setting.

While most interviews are set up during the table time, some are set up through email or at the dinner. The interviews begin at 8 a.m. and take up a 15-minute time slot. They do not always lead to a job offer and are sometimes used as an opportunity to instead socialize or practice for future interviews. One student who took advantage of this is first-year student Trevor Shanley. He is a wood product manufacturing major, and even though he is in his first year at the university, he scheduled eight interviews for Friday. He said that "it was not as intimidating as it seemed, and half the time it was just a conversation."

Student remembered for his smile and personality



Connor Roudebush, a sophomore studying construction management and Braxon Gough, a freshman studying biology, compete for Lambda 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

Brianna Barnes chief editor

Braxon Gough, a Pittsburg State student and member of Lambda Chi Alpha, passed away in a car accident Feb. 24. He was a freshman biology/pre-med major and was a beloved brother of the fraternity. Many people's hearts go out to his family. Gough was known as a sweet, and hardworking man whose personality and smiled touched lives.

Henry Chrisman, president of Lambda Chi Alpha at Pittsburg State, made a statement on the GoFundMe made to honor Gough.

"Braxon was the sweetest and most hardworking young man," Chrisman said. "His smile and personality touched so many people's lives. Our brotherhood was made better than ever because of Braxon. Braxon was the perfect representation of the values and ideals of Lambda Chi Alpha. He was perfect. Braxon will never be forgotten. May his soul rest in paradise."

A vigil for Gough was planned by his fraternity. It was held Mar. 1 at Gorilla Village. Students and the community were invited.



Friends and family of Braxon Gough, past freshman in biology, came to mourn at his vigil Mar. 1 at Gorilla Village. Gough was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha. | Photo by Brianna Barnes

‘Iron Lung’ shocks with high praise

Mat Dains reporter

A surprising independent hit emerged in theaters Jan. 30 as YouTube sensation Mark Fischbach, also known as Markiplier, premiered his feature-length film “Iron Lung,” a blood-soaked sci-fi horror adaptation of an indie video game that has sparked responses from critics, Hollywood, and audiences.

“Iron Lung” follows Simon, a haunted convict tasked with piloting a rusted submarine called the Iron Lung through a vast crimson blood ocean on a desolate moon, after the cataclysmic event known as the “quiet rapture,” an apocalypse that erased all the stars and planets. What begins as a claustrophobic mission quickly becomes an unsettling psychological journey for both the character and viewers.

In spite of its humble roots, the project funded by Markiplier himself and shot on a notoriously low budget, “Iron Lung” has exceeded many expectations at a box office opening, and over 3000 theaters, the film grossed nearly \$18 million during its first weekend. With global totals climbing into the mid-10 millions, these numbers for a film without a major studio backing it or a traditional marketing campaign signify a notable victory for independent cinema. Industry observers see the film’s financial performance as a direct result of Markiplier’s massive online following, which includes nearly 40,000,000 YouTube subscribers.

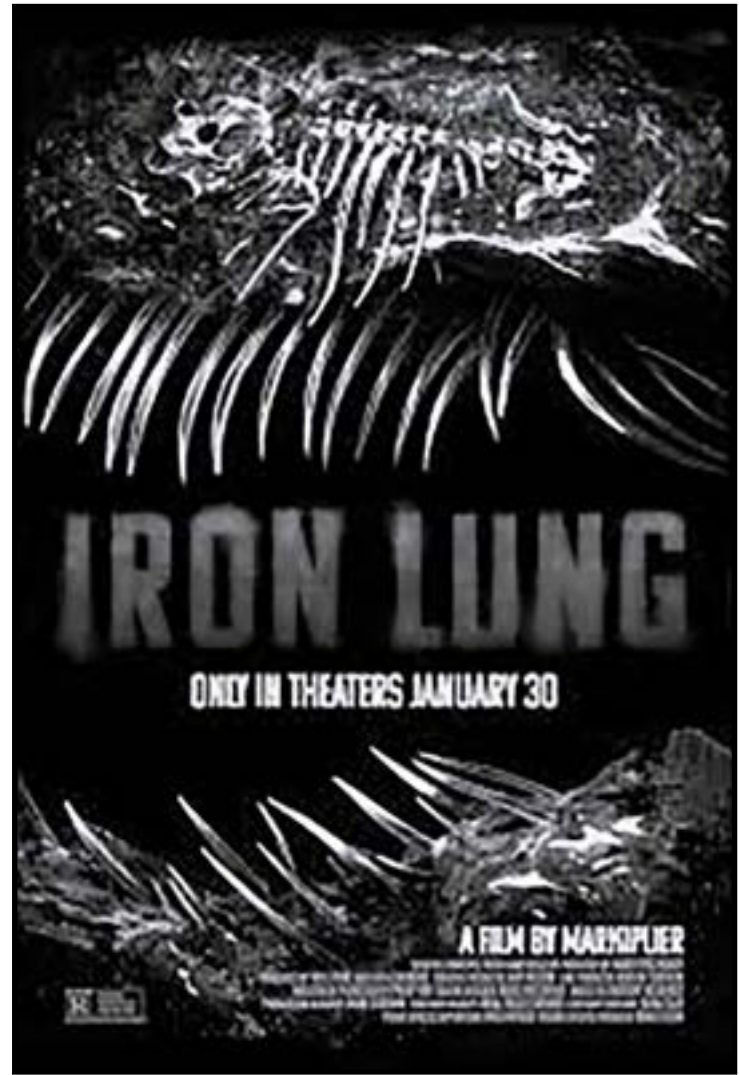
This film has sparked controversy amongst critics and fans alike. The critics call it ambitious but flawed. Among the mainstream critics, several negative themes reoccur; the issue of pacing and narrative thickness, bare bones execution, and the slow burn that runs for too long. Critics who responded more favorably tend to appreciate the distinctiveness

of the project rather than the conventional cinematic polish, so appraised “Iron Lung” for atmospheric ambitious restraint. Even if those qualities might alienate viewers seeking a more traditional horror experience, some of the audience rallies behind the unique experience.

Several fan reviews highlighted the personal dimension Markiplier brings to work, noting that he has a long history with narrative gaming and that the horror story structure informed the movie’s mood and emotional pull. Some credit Markiplier’s ability to maintain the audience’s attention.

Markiplier’s “Iron Lung” arrives at an interesting moment in cultural history where boundary-pushing creators are increasingly crossing over from digital platforms to traditional media industry. Analysts see the films performance and mixed reception as indicator that the audience habits are evolving, blending elements of interactive media, niche fandom, and indie filmmaking. “Iron Lung” stands as one of the most significant early experiments, in what some commentators are calling Metatextual cinema. This refers to when the worlds of gaming and film influence one another. This is much like other successful films in the same category, such as “Five Nights at Freddy’s” and Amazon’s “Fallout” series.

had been transformative. Rather than resting on the comfort of his own online successes, he chose to gamble, creatively write, direct, finance, and even distribute the film on his own terms. That kind of commitment is rare in today’s industry, and even the mid mixed reviews many agree that the effort does deserve recognition for its ambition and passion.



| Photo courtesy of IMDb

‘Overwatch 2’ died so ‘Overwatch’ could live

Mark Ziegler reporter

On Oct. 4, 2022, “Overwatch” 2 was released to the world. Set two years after the original Overwatch title, the game quickly went on a steep decline from what it once was, leaving myself and many others worrying that the Overwatch franchise may be sunsetted, or shut down. That is, until Feb. 4, 2026, when Blizzard announced their plans for 2026, and with it would come big changes to how the game was played and the story within the game, instantly feeling the world with a feeling that Overwatch was back.

One of the biggest changes made to Overwatch is how the seasons work. Every major update, Blizzard would introduce a new theme, or season, to the game, and with each season came all sorts of new mechanics, skins, and even the occasional new character. The only real problem that I, and many other players, saw was that these seasons had no real tie in with the story of “Overwatch 2.” Sure, there would be an occasional lore drop, and all the new characters would have detailed backstories, but they never affected the big picture of the game and its story.

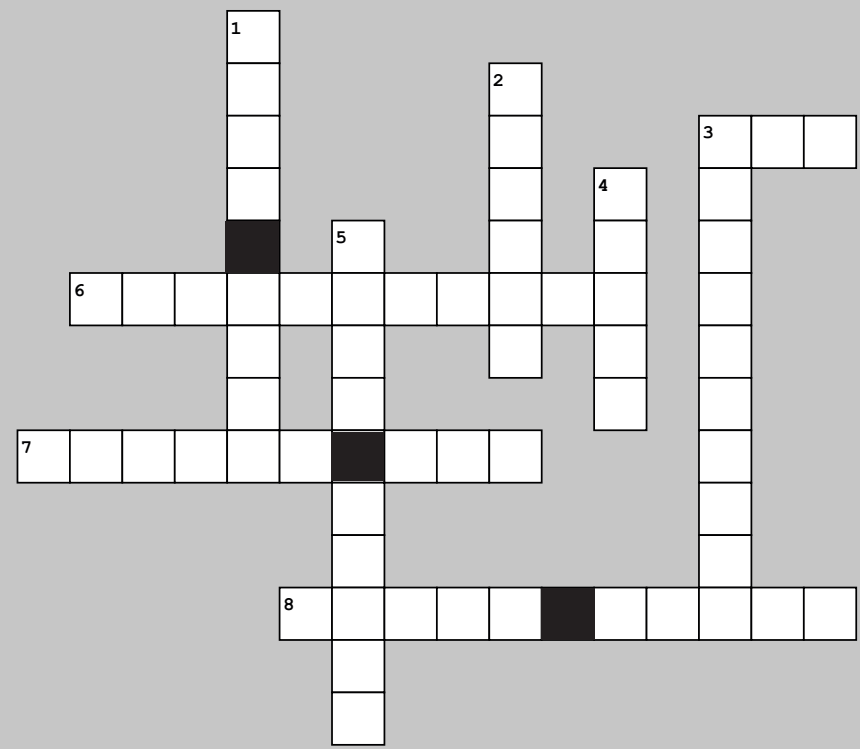
However, the new Overwatch’s seasons will tie into a bigger story. The first season of 2026, “Conquest,” is the first part of a grander story called “The Reign of Talon.” Talon, an in-game terrorist organization and one of Overwatch’s biggest threats to world peace, was led by Akande “Doomfist” Ogundimu, who wanted to cause conflict to strengthen the world. However, he soon found himself engaging in a violent confrontation with a woman named Marzia Bartalotti, Talon’s rightful heiress who fights under the name “Vendetta.” The brawl ended with Vendetta throwing Doomfist out of the window of Talon’s headquarters, potentially killing Doomfist and ensuring her spot as their new leader and bringing forth a new era of chaos. The animation for the fight, titled “Reign of Talon” was animated perfectly to show Vendetta’s story and the fight itself, and it served as a great pilot to what 2026 would be about- Vendetta starting her new empire.

Another thing that I think is revitalizing “Overwatch” are the playable characters. In the past, Blizzard would only add three new heroes each year, and despite offering unique playstyles, they often had next to nothing to do with the overall story. However, each new season will have a new character, and they will all help move the story forward. Conquest brings five new characters off the bat- Domina, a Talon-hired negotiator who has a long-ranged beam, Emre, a fast-paced ex-Overwatch member who is corrupted by a mysterious AI, Mizuki, a healer who is torn between Talon and Overwatch, Anran, a close-ranged fighter and college graduate who uses fire to attack and, along with her water-based brother Wuyang, use their elemental powers to help Overwatch, and Jetpack Cat, a stray that was placed in a jetpack with a tractor beam that can really mix things up in a fight. I know I have found a new favorite character in Anran, who works well with my up-close-and-personal approach to fighting in competitive games, and her flames and her speed can make her a menace in brawls. With this diverse blend of new characters, as well as the five others to come as the year progresses, I am excited to not only see how they affect the story, but also the ways they affect how the game is played.

As these changes and more come to “Overwatch,” I have seen players from far and wide jumping back into the game, to the point that “Overwatch” has seen a higher player count in the second week of Conquest than at the start of the season, marking the first time since the game was released back in 2022 that this has happened. Season 1: Conquest is active right now, and the next season should be releasing sometime in April, knowing Blizzard’s previous update schedule and how they intended on keeping it about the same. As I continue to watch the gaming giant return to form with a smile on my face, I know that whatever comes next, I will welcome it with open arms.

CROSSWORD: Local Businesses

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



NOTE: Answers will omit the word “The”

Across

3. An Arctic Monkeys song that serves the best hurricane shots
6. Recently moved away from campus, but can be found at the Jolly Fox’s former location
7. Buy secondhand clothing and support the Humane Society in one go
8. Pitt State apparel can be found in this mall location

Down

1. Serves everyone’s favorite creamy Italian
2. Stop in for a daytime coffee or a nighttime cocktail
3. Enjoy a local music scene and play pool upstairs (written in abbreviated ordinal numbers)
4. The best restaurant to find local honey
5. Named after a colorful utensil, this food truck now has a building

Last edition’s answers 02/27/2026

Across

4. OAGAAG
6. Bill Nye
7. Russ

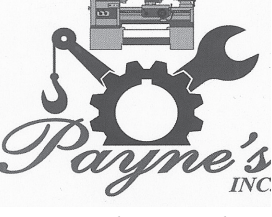
Down

1. Wooster
2. GAB
3. Oval
5. Kanza



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Supervisory Skills Workshops available soon

Mark Zeigler reporter

The Center for Business and Talent Development (CBTD), a member of the Kelce College of Business, is set to begin a series of six workshops, starting on March 11. The Supervisory Skills Workshops series will talk about six different topics to help supervisors, or those wanting to be supervisors, learn how to be effective leaders in their respective professions.

“Participants can expect to be fully engaged in practical applications of the skills shared throughout these sessions,” Dr. Mark Johnson said, a professor who works within the College of Business, specifically as part of the Human Resource Development Program (HRDP). “Each session is taught by experts in the field that have a proven track record for improving workplace performance.”

Johnson cited the series being created out of a desire to help improve Pittsburg area businesses. “One of the major challenges of any small business is overseeing employee performance, as well as helping each employee to grow and develop. When the HRD program moved to the Kelce College of Business last fall, we saw that as an opportunity to move this idea forward. I presented a proposal to the Dean and Provost, and it was immediately accepted,” Dr. Johnson added.

The Supervisory Skills Workshops series will feature three presenters, all of whom are distinguished professionals within the world of business and human resources- one of which is Johnson himself. Johnson’s career spans across both the United States and Canada, giving tips and improvement ideas to four thousand industry and apprenticeship instructors and counting. The film, carpentry, and allied trade industries are just a few of the many groups Johnson has been able to work with over the years. The second speaker of this group is Dr. Judy Smetana. Dr. Smetana’s specialty area is leadership and organizational development, and she too has helped numerous corporations not just within the country, but around the world. Rounding out the team of speakers is Dr. Krissy Lewis. Lewis’s workshops primarily focus on emotional intelligence and team building.

The Supervisory Skills Workshops series is set to begin on March 11 in the Sunflower Room in the Overman Student Center. The topic of that workshop will be Working in Teams. Supervision 101 is the second workshop, which will also be in the Sunflower Room, on March 25. The other four seminars will be in the conference room in Block 22, starting on April 8 with Workplace Investigations. Intro to Disc Behavior Analysis will be on April 22, followed by Workplace Communication on May 6, and the final workshop, Emotional Intelligence, will be on May 20. The maximum number of attendees for each event will be 40 people.

The Center for Business and Talent Development isn’t stopping with the Supervisory Skills Workshops Series for 2026, however. Next semester, the CBTD will also offer workshops on Small Business Development, AI for Executives, and Improving Employee Deployment Efforts. The new Kelce College of Business in downtown Pittsburg is slated to open in August, so the fall classes will be hosted at the new building.

Getting fancy at Etiquette Dinner



The host brings out the entrée for the evening. They served Chicken with a cheese sauce, with a side of green beans and mashed potatoes.
| Photo by Jack Bruntz



The host brings out the entrée for the evening. They served Chicken with a cheese sauce, with a side of green beans and mashed potatoes.
| Photo by Jack Bruntz

Students bring the world to the Bicknell stage

Masynn Acheson reporter

Every year, the International Student Association hosts the International Showcase at the Bicknell Family Center for the Arts. This year, on Saturday, Feb. 28, there were a total of 12 performances. These performances ranged from singing, instrumental talents, and skits, each one tailored to show a piece of their unique cultures.

Ngetwai Ngramengior, the president of the International Student Association and in her last semester of grad school with the social work department, said that “this event is special because it highlights the many cultures represented on our campus and creates a space where students can celebrate and learn from one another’s backgrounds.” She is originally from Palau, an archipelago near Guam and Papua New Guinea, but came to study social work at Pitt State.

Ngramengior is now the president of the ISA. As president of ISA, she helped to “lead the planning and coordination of the event, work closely with [their] team, and encourage international students to showcase their talents and cultures through performances.”

Thanks to events like this, Shreyashee Dutta, a graduate student and graduate teaching assistant in the Department of Psychology & Counseling, feels that “people in the States are very well aware of the rich cultural heritage of India.”

She has received a few comments from people saying they liked the “Ghungru,” which is the sound that the bells worn around the feet make while dancing.

“I really wish that people would get an enriching experience by watching my dance in this international showcase,” she said.

Aagaman Bajracharya is the vice president of ISA, and he is a senior studying biology. He is from Nepal and represented his country by performing “End of Beginning” by Djo on his guitar while he sang. He said that since he was in

America and has visited Chicago several times, “That song just hits different.” He brought his own guitar to play and has played the guitar on and off for the last 10 years.

Another of the performances was done by several students from Africa and their friends, dancing to a compilation of several Afrobeat songs. Favour Bassey, a graduate teaching assistant in the department of communication, gave some words following the performance. Last year, it was just her and her sister on the stage, but this year, she was joined by several other students, and she said that she “was just happy to see friends and old and new faces” on the stage that night. Bassey went on to say that she “loved seeing not just [her] own country and continent but also seeing other countries too.”

Jayli Johnson is a junior graphic communications major with an emphasis in graphic design and said that “it was a really cool night.” She added, “I liked to see the excitement of all the international students and the pride they have in their countries.”

Mia Perry, a senior English and creative writing major, came to the showcase to experience “all the different things with [her] friends.” She said her favorite was the very first act, where Gabriela Mongelos Dominguez of Paraguay performed “Regalo De Amor,” a song praising love.

Perry mentioned, “When I sat down and that was the first one to come out, I was not expecting it.” She also added that having the showcase on campus “gave [her] hope” among “all the things happening” in the world right now.

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Gorillas track are MIAA champions



Sophomore Na’Koriyon James vaults over the hurdles during the 60 Meter Hurdles event at the MIAA Track and Field Championships on Feb. 28. Both the men’s and women’s track teams won the championship, scoring the most points overall in both divisions. | Photo by Mark Ziegler

Curtis Meyers sports editor

It’s another season, another MIAA championship for the Pitt State Gorillas, both men’s and women’s. It’s been nothing short of a dominant indoor track and field season for Pitt State, and that was cemented again this week. For the women’s it’s the ninth title in the last ten seasons, while it’s the tenth title in the last thirteen for the men’s.

Not only did the men win the tournament, but they also posted 225 points – the highest point total in MIAA Indoor Championships history – to beat MIAA runner-up Northwest Missouri by 110 points. The Bearcats finished the meet with 115 points, while third-place Missouri Southern State University totaled 88.5 points.

“I’d say it went pretty well. The men’s team sets the new MIAA point record. It’s pretty good,” head coach Kyle Rutledge said.

The Gorillas captured eight MIAA titles on the day: Redshirt sophomore Grayson Smith in the pole vault

(17-2.25); redshirt junior Dylan Sprecker in the mile (4:10.01) & the 3,000 meters (8:18.39); junior Ilias Garcia in the 60 meters (6.59); junior Caden Williams in the 400 meters (46.24); freshman William Seitz in the 600-yard run (1:09.97) redshirt freshman Griouard Weddington in the 200 meters (21.04); and the 4x400m relay of sophomore Amar Williams, junior Logan Davis, redshirt sophomore Caden Uthe and junior Nate Watson (3:07.53).

The Gorillas also registered five MIAA runner-up performances Sunday: Redshirt sophomore Drake Stapleton in the shot put (60-0); freshman Braylon Brown in the pole vault (17-2.25); redshirt sophomore Johnetheon Lockett in the triple jump (49-7.25); Watson in the 400m (46.29); and junior Braylon Thompson in the 200m (21.15). Other Sunday point scorers included: Weddington, 60m (3rd, 6.66); junior Tyrone Jackson, 60m hurdles (3rd, 7.85); Logan, 400m (3rd, 46.55);

senior Kemarri Stewart, 60m (4th, 6.70) & 200m (5th, 21.50); redshirt junior Jordan Kilonzo, 800m (4th, 1:51.91); freshman Antwan Dawson, triple jump (5th, 48-8.25); redshirt sophomore Eli Gilmore, 600-yard run (5th, 1:10.86); senior Britton Gage, pole vault (T6th, 16-6.5); Thompson, 60m (6th, 6.72); sophomore Amar Williams, 400m (6th, 47.58); sophomore Na’Koriyon James, 60m hurdles (7th, 8.07); freshman TyQuarious Ivy, triple jump (7th, 47-7.25); junior Albert House, 60m hurdles (8th, 16.39).

The women just narrowly missed resetting the point total record they set last year, finishing the three-day meet with an MIAA record 212 points, besting second-place Northwest Missouri State University by 106 points. The Bearcats finished the meet with 106 points. Washburn University posted 90 points to finish in third place.

The Gorillas secured three individual MIAA crowns on the day: Sophomore Lily Brown in the triple jump (40-3); sophomore Kayvon Nubine in the 60-meter hurdles (8.29) and junior Paige Mullen in the 3,000 meters (9:49.15).

The Gorillas also registered a trio MIAA runner-up performances Sunday: Junior Jazmine Williamson in the triple jump (39-11.25); graduate student Zyra Shivers in the 60m hurdles (8.34) and the 4x400m relay of freshman Nikole Cozort, senior Isabel Abdouch, senior Kinleigh Hall and sophomore Mikah Edwards (3:40.50). Other Sunday point scorers included: Senior Makayla Pavelka, triple jump (3rd, 38-9.25); freshman Piper Hula, 600-yard run (3rd, 1:23.48); senior Kaci Singer, 3,000m (3rd, 9:49.61); freshman Alexa Binkley, triple jump (4th, 38-8.25); Edwards, 400m (4th, 55.19); senior Abby Lasiter, shot put (5th, 45-7.25); junior Kinley Smith, triple jump (5th, 37-5.5); redshirt freshman McKinlee Walker, 60m hurdles (5th, 8.63); Hall, 400m (5th, 55.27); freshman Jakayla Morgan, 600-yard run (6th, 1:25.06); Abdouch, 200m (6th, 24.50); Cozort, 400m (7th, 55.38); and redshirt sophomore Kelsey Bruening, 800m (7th, 2:15.56).

“The nature of the event itself brings out a lot of big marks. It’s the intensity and passion they have to win the conference. It’s a big deal for our kids and a big deal for our program,” Coach Rutledge said.

The Gorillas will now prepare for the NCAA indoor Division II Championships in a couple of weeks.

Baseball remains undefeated

Curtis Meyers sports editor

Another week, another three wins for the Pitt State Gorilla baseball team. It’s been a record-breaking season for two weeks now, and the Gorillas show no signs of stopping anytime soon. Pitt State’s streak was extended to 17 games this past weekend, as they went on the road to play Arkansas – Fort Smith.

“This weekend was good. We got a lot of guys that got a lot of at-bats, we scored a lot of runs, our pitchers did really well. Overall, it was a really good weekend,” head coach Brock Buckingham said.

The first game was held on Friday night and was a resounding 17-2 win for the Gorillas. The Gorillas would jump out to a 4-2 lead after the first inning, and never looked back, dominating the Lions, including a seven-run ninth inning to cement the blowout.

Senior Dagen Brewer continued his torrid hitting pace for the Gorillas. Brewer doubled twice and belted a pair of home runs, including a grand slam in Pitt State’s seven-run ninth inning that punctuated the lopsided win.

Junior Eric Bacon and senior Grant Nottlemann also hit home runs for the Gorillas. Redshirt senior Isaac Webb collected two hits and scored twice, while junior Jayden McNealy and Bacon scored three runs apiece. Senior Preston Giltner improved to 3-0 on the season.. Giltner tossed 5.0 innings and fanned six batters. Junior Bradyn McClure scattered four hits over 3.0 innings of relief work, while registering five strikeouts. Senior Cooper Crouch tossed a scoreless ninth inning to complete the pitching battery.

Pitt State would take the win Friday and improve upon it Saturday, as they cruised to a 30-3 win over the haples Lions. Webb homered and drove in five runs in the contest, while junior Landin Midgett collected three hits with a home run and four RBI. Brewer continued his hitting streak with a 3-for-3 day at the plate. Brewer homered, scored four runs and drove in three more runs. Graduate student Zach Voss improved to 5-0 on the season. He limited the Lions to two hits through 4.0 innings pitched. Redshirt junior Bradley Neill, junior Ethan Froud, and junior Cross Dowd pitched behind Voss.

The Sunday afternoon game went the same as the rest, with Pitt State winning 16-3. The Gorillas amassed a 12-1 lead after the first three innings, holding control of the game for its duration. Webb went 3-for-5 at the plate with a double and five RBI on the afternoon. Midgett homered for a second straight game and drove in four runs. Brewer extended his MIAA record consecutive games hitting streak to 37 games with a second-inning single. He went 1-for-2, was intentionally walked twice and scored three runs.

Redshirt sophomore Elijah Seitz earned the win in relief for the Gorillas. He limited UAFS to one hit over 2.0 innings of work and registered two strikeouts. Redshirt junior Ty Blecha made his first start of the season. He allowed one run and four hits over 3.0 innings of work. Redshirt junior Cason Long tossed the final two innings for Pitt State, allowing two runs and fanning four batters.

“It gives us confidence, but we still try to stay humble. We know it’s a long season, we know the MIAA is really tough, so we’re just preaching one game at a time, one day at a time, and sticking to it,” oach Brockingham said.



Senior Leo Chauchard warms up for the pole vault portion of the heptathlon at the MIAA Track and Field Championships on Feb. 28. In a field of nine competitors, Chauchard placed first for the event. | Photo by Mark Ziegler

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“Like a good neighbor state farm is there”

Serving local and International students

GAB hosts Silent Disco

Caroline Kunshek copy editor

On Tuesday, Feb. 24, Pitt State’s Gorilla Activities Board (GAB) hosted a silent disco in the Overman Student Center Ballroom. The event provided a set of headphones for each student to wear, with the headphone color indicating which genre would be playing through them.

The event was coordinated by GAB’s programming chair, Trevor Bunt. Bunt is a junior majoring in graphic communications. When asked about the inspiration for the event, he explained, “We’ve basically done it every year, so it’s just like a yearly thing that we do. The headphones are on auto-order, so they just get shipped here to the university, and then they’re ready to go with all the channels and stuff.”

The disco serves as a way to let students relax before midterms, Bunt adding that students enjoy “just getting to, like, dance with everyone. We have like, line dances going on, and I just think it’s a good way to let off steam right before midterms.”

According to Bunt, the disco had a steady flow throughout the night.

“More people keep showing up as the event keeps going, so that’s good.” He added, “We’ll probably do it again next year wherever we can fit it in with our planning.”

Students like graphic communications senior Ashley Atkinson came for the dancing and the good vibes. “It’s like a non-judgement zone,”



Sophomore Phycology student Vada Cass puts on a headset for the silent disco event. The silent disco event has students put on personalized headsets tuned into different radio stations. | Photo by Christopher Law

Atkinson said. “Everyone is just screaming and shouting, like you can’t hear anyone, so people aren’t worried about being heard and just dancing freely.”

Atkinson was excited to attend the event. “I’ve heard of the silent disco at other places before, and I missed it last year. But I heard it was really fun, so I wanted to go today.”

Junior psychology major Olivia Tune agreed, saying her favorite part was “Just having fun; the music, dancing with friends, it’s really exciting and a way to get out. Everybody is doing their own thing.” She added, “It’s really

funny whenever you take your headphones off.”

Junior communications major Wesley Reed enjoyed the event, but he noted that the participation was lower than that of previous years. “Last year I was here and I met a lot of people, but it was early in the year. Now it’s so close to midterms and spring break that I feel like a lot of people just don’t want to go out right now.”

Regardless of attendance, students were able to dance to their favorite music.

“I don’t like country, but I’ve really liked the green and the blue tonight,” said Tune. “Each section has a different genre; the red plays country and the blue plays hip hop. I mainly listened to blue tonight, but green had some bangers.”

The green headphones played “throwback music,” which was a favorite for

Atkinson. “They have a lot of throwback songs that are playing, and I really like those. There was just a Victoria Justice song playing, so that was really fun.”

Reed agreed, stating that “Green was banging tonight. It was up the wazoo.”

Overall, students felt that the event was a great time, with Atkinson saying, “It’s really fun, I feel like people are missing out, so they should come next time.”

Reed added, “People should come to more GAB events.”

IDEA FEST approving reservations

Brianna Barnes chief editor

IDEA FEST, an entrepreneur expo, will be held March 24 at the Overman Student Center and table reservations will be accepted till March 13. Table reservations can be made by contacting organizer Jane Talkington at jtalkington@pittstate.edu or dropping by Kelce 220. There is no cost to be part of IDEA FEST.

“People can expect an event that looks like a trade show but feels like a family reunion as the town joins the campus,” Talkington said. “There will be 50 tables in a show setting of the ballroom and manned by college students with ideas, current business ventures to promote, and pop-up merchandise. Enterprising students will have food for sale such as home baked goods, French desserts, authentic Indian food, and possibly Southeast Kansas famous fried chicken.”

Axelle Rage, a junior majoring in Business Administration and an international student from France, will be bringing culture with desserts.

“For IDEA FEST, I’m cooking and selling French desserts,” Rage said. “I wanted to bring something from my culture and turn it into a small business project.”

The event is meant to be low stakes and bring entrepreneurs into a community. “The spark for this innovative entrepreneurship event is to create a low stakes event that connects people and builds confidence in the students,” Talkington said. “Creating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship means showing people that they are not alone. The community of innovators was my doctoral dissertation topic. Hosting the IDEA FEST is a manifestation of how to support these problem solvers with ideas to make the world a better place. The collective genius in the room is palatable. Students encouraging students means a lot.”

Dylan Burr, a freshman majoring in construction management, will be at the event and is hoping to start a landscaping business.

“I am setting up a table in IDEA FEST. I’m selling the idea of fall yard cleanups and landscaping,” Burr said. “It’s important because I’ve been wanting to start some sort of landscaping business here. Now this will be my jump start.”

The event is not about winning or losing, according to Talkington. It is an experience to gain practice, feedback, and ideas.

“IDEA FEST is not a win-lose proposition,” Talkington said. “Every student will gain value from the experience. There are a few scholarships that will be awarded by a panel of floating judges. About 50 people will serve as evaluators who talk to the students one on one in a casual trade show environment. No one is on stage pitching a formal business plan. There is also a public vote that will determine one scholarship winner. we are encouraging students displaying at their table to encourage their friends to attend and vote.”

This action-oriented event is helping students put ideas into reality, according to Rage. It’s doing more than just talking about the ideas.

“I think it’s important, because it pushes students to actually try their ideas instead of just talking about them,” Rage said. “It’s very hands-on and creative.”

Green bandanas increases mental health support

Chance Fields reporter

Green bandanas have slowly started appearing across Pittsburg State University’s campus. While the number is still growing, student leaders and administrators say each bandana represents something bigger than a piece of fabric. It represents a trained peer who is willing to listen. Since launching in April 2025, 127 faculty, staff, and students have completed QPR suicide prevention training, according to Jesse Briscoe, Assistant Director of Student Life. Of those 127 individuals, 70 have also completed the Green Bandana Project orientation and now wear a green bandana to signal that they are prepared to recognize warning signs and connect others to appropriate resources.

Briscoe explained that the difference in numbers reflects additional QPR sessions held for specific campus groups, including resident assistants and the academic advising team, who requested the training separately. While not all of those participants completed the Green Bandana orientation, Briscoe views the overall participation as a positive sign. “For me, that just shows there’s interest,” Briscoe said. “People recognize this is an issue, and they’re trying to do something about it.”

Currently operating under the umbrella of the Student Government Association, the Green Bandana Project is entering what Briscoe described as a transitional phase. After connecting with SAVE, the national organization that oversees the initiative, campus leaders learned the program is designed to go beyond training sessions and build an active mental health community. “We’re kind of at a pivotal time right now,” Briscoe said. “How do we give a warm handoff and pass the baton so that faculty and staff are not necessarily driving this moving forward, but we’re creating opportunities for our student leaders?” That shift toward student leadership is something Sid Ruckman, a student leader involved in the project, hopes to see expand.

“I would hope to see more students taking the initiative of helping with events, proposing ideas for what TGBP could do on campus, and spreading the word to friends, other clubs, and in classes,” said Ruckman, a student leader majoring in graphic communications. Although 70 individuals currently wear green bandanas, Ruckman acknowledged that visibility across campus is still limited. “It means a lot to me whenever I see someone on campus with a green bandana,” Ruckman said. “It makes me happy knowing that other people value mental health and suicide prevention. I think it’s a small group so far, so it’s not as visible.” Awareness remains a challenge. While students who complete the training understand the purpose of QPR and the Green Bandana Project, Ruckman believes many students are unfamiliar with what the initiative actually involves.

“I don’t think the average student on campus knows what QPR or TGBP is,” Ruckman said.

To address that gap, Ruckman hopes to see more interactive outreach, including tabling events, gatherings for members, and educational programs that make conversations about mental health more approachable. “I think that peer support would help make that bridge to the professional,” Ruckman said. “It’s a lot easier to talk to a friend or someone you’ve spent time with in a class than a professional you’ve never met before.” Briscoe echoed that sentiment, noting that students often confide in friends long before seeking formal support. “The reality is the student is going to tell their trusted friend and loved one before they actually go to the health center,” Briscoe said. “We all need to be equipped.”

As the Green Bandana Project approaches its one-year mark, leaders say continued growth will depend on student involvement and visibility. For those wearing green bandanas, the goal is simple: Create a campus culture where conversations about mental health are normal; stigma is reduced, and no student feels alone.

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Adviser
Josh Letner
jbletner@pittstate.edu

Ad & Business Manager
Michelle Ewan
mewan@pittstate.edu
620-235-4816

Ad Representative
Chance Fields
chance.fields@gus.pittstate.edu

Photo Editor
Kaylee Dillow

Social Media Editor
Kaylee Dillow

Managing Editor
Lauryn Gilfillan

Copy Editor
Caroline Kunshek

Webmaster
Caroline Kunshek

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Ava Kietzman
Emma Forst
Chris Law
Jack Bruntz
Kaylee Dillow
Ky Boturf
Mark Ziegler

Design Chief
Emma Forst
egforst@gus.pittstate.edu

Designers
Brianna Barnes
Caroline Kunshek
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Masynn Acheson
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When is it time for a break from social media?

Caroline Kunshek copy editor

Social media is an addiction that many teenagers, young adults, and even some older people struggle with. While it isn’t by default an “addiction,” it frequently turns into one. Many people notice the decline in their mental health after mindlessly scrolling, and try to remedy this habit by doing a “social media detox.” But what exactly does that entail, and how can someone know it’s time to try one?

The social media addict isn’t exclusively to blame for this nonstop scrolling. These apps are designed to keep people scrolling for as long as possible, often using tactics that can wreak havoc on the user’s mental health. The apps can be used to stay in touch with friends, keep up with the news, learn fun life hacks, and watch cute videos of unhinged cats. It’s a source of unlimited dopamine hits. Not only is all of this content available, but it’s catered towards each individual’s interests based on an algorithm.

It’s commonly agreed upon among researchers that being overwhelmed by so much contrasting content can have terrible impacts on mental health: Depression, anxiety, self-esteem decline, insomnia, impulsive behavior, distractibility, etc.... So how can a user know when it’s time to put away the entertaining “get ready with me” videos and spend some time outside for a while?

A common signal that it’s time to take a break includes feeling drained, overwhelmed, anxious, or otherwise upset after scrolling. While a social media session can be inspiring, educational, or eye-opening, it can get to a point where your brain is processing too much negative information for too long and doesn’t know how to handle it.

If your time spent on social media is actively taking too much time away from being with loved ones or doing hobbies, that is also a problematic symptom of this addiction.

Sometimes, people are fully aware that they need to take a minute and step back from the online world. But like any other addiction, many aren’t

sure where to start.

The first step is to plan your “detox.” How long should this break be, what are your time limits on each app if you aren’t quitting cold turkey, at what point do you stop scrolling? It may be more beneficial to take smaller breaks more periodically to get your brain used to being off the grid. Maybe go two days a week without social media, or delete your apps every weekend. This can be a more realistic and therefore more successful way of going about it.

The next step after making a plan is figuring out other activities to do when you would normally be scrolling. While it’s healthy to be bored sometimes, in the beginning, this is not always a realistic expectation. This is a great time to try something new, or rediscover an old hobby that you “don’t have time for anymore,” such as reading, walking, meeting with friends, or drawing.

To execute these plans, you can simply delete your social media apps, or utilize one of many apps and settings that allow you to limit your own screen time on each app. For people who are super committed to the bit, you can change your technology all together and revert back to the stone age- buy a flip phone off Marketplace. It sounds outlandish at first, but the novelty of it may be just enough to kick out that social media addiction. Plus, who doesn’t love violently slamming their phone shut after a call that could’ve been a text?

At the end of the day, accountability is what can really make any of these options work. Having an accountability partner works for many addictions, and social media is no different. Make it as difficult or inconvenient as possible to access your social media apps outside of your designated time slots. While a social media addiction may not cause a whole lot of bodily harm, your brain is worth protecting, and cutting out social media may just help with that.

2026 Olympics is one for the history books

Emma Forst design chief

The 2026 Winter Olympics were hosted by Milan Cortina, Italy. Throughout the month of February, the best of the best athletes were representing their countries, competing for gold. Opening ceremonies were held on Feb. 6 and officially closed the world event on Feb. 22. A total of 16 sports were competed: Figure skating, ice hockey, short track speed skating, speed skating, curling, alpine skiing, freestyle skiing, cross-country skiing, ski jumping, Nordic combined, snowboard, bobsleigh, skeleton, luge, biathlon, and the newly added ski mountaineering.

The United States came in second place of the 24 countries that competed. The American athletes took home a total of 33 medals, 12 gold, 12 silver, and 9 bronzes. Norway took first place with 41 overall medals.

These Olympic games were the shiniest of the previous Winter games for the United States. Bringing home more gold medals and total medals than any other winter Olympics for the United States. Of the U.S. medals, the female athletes won 12 medals, six of them being gold and the male athletes received 12, four gold medals.

With many record-breaking moments, these games made their place in history books. The USA’s top two earning sports being freestyle skiing, earning eight total medals and speed skating with five medals. USA’s speed skater, Jordan Stolz, earned three of the five medals. Setting the record in the 500m and 1,000m where he earned two gold medals.

Women’s individual figure skating earned a gold medal after a 24-year drought. Sarah Hughes, the gold medalist in 2002, held the record until 20-year-old Alyssa Liu took first place this year. Overall, the US figure-skating team brought home three medals.

Both Hockey teams earned gold medals for the first time. The Women’s team set the Olympic record for most consecutive shutouts, making five games when the opposing team is unable to earn points. Hilary Knight made history for most career Olympic points, 33 goals, and 15 in U.S. women’s ice hockey history. The men’s hockey team, also ending a longstanding drought, won gold for the first time since the 1980 Olympic games.

Elana Meyers Taylor, an American bobsledder, who came into the Olympics with five medals, finally earned her first gold medal. Adding to the record she holds for the most Olympic medals by an American bobsledder. Becoming one of four U.S. Winter Olympians with six or more medals, joining Bonnie Blair, as the most decorated U.S. women in Winter Olympic history.

While many of the USA teams made history for outstanding performance, others were highlighted for traumatic reasons. Like Alpine Ski Racer, Linday Vonn, who had injured her ACL before the competition, but decided to still compete with the guidance of doctors and coaches. During her run, Vonn clipped a gate and went into a high-speed crash resulting in an airlift from the track, and required multiple surgeries after a complex tibia fracture according to the New York Times article, “Watching sports stars play through pain: Risks, rewards, and what our reporters thought.”

These Olympic games were unlike any other. With many records set and standards being redefined by Americans. It poses a highlight in the country’s current state.

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Dinos, feathers, and birds, oh my...

Mat Dains reporter

Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. in Yates Hall, members of the Sperry-Gallagher Audubon Society gathered for their monthly meeting, welcoming newcomers and longtime bird enthusiasts alike. The chapter, affiliated with the National Audubon Society, meets on the last Thursday of each academic month and features guest speakers, seasonal bird discussions, and community updates.

Megan Corrigan was the evening’s speaker. Her topic, “How Birds Became Dinosaurs,” was meant to challenge people’s general assumptions about dinosaurs.

In general, many people grew up learning that dinosaurs were extinct, cold-blooded reptiles. Nowadays, most scientists agree that birds are not just related to dinosaurs, but actually are dinosaurs.

Corrigan explained how this change in thinking happened, citing the PBS Nova documentary “Dino Birds” as a main source. In the 1820s, early paleontologists thought huge fossil bones belonged to giant extinct reptiles. However, in 1860, the discovery of the Archaeopteryx, found in Germany, challenged this theory. This 150-million-year-old fossil contained both feathers and teeth, preserving a combination of bird and reptile features.

Later, paleontologist Thomas Henry Huxley said that birds were closely related to small theropod dinosaurs. But his idea was debated for many years, mostly because no dinosaur fossils had a wishbone, that being a signature feature of birds.

At the same time, fossils found in the United States added more clues. In the 1860s, ancient marine deposits in Kansas yielded remarkable fossils. One of them, found by Benjamin Franklin Mudge and described by Yale paleontologist Othniel Charles Marsh, was the Ichthyornis, a bird with teeth that resembles our gulls of today. This fossil, about 80 to 90 million years old, showed that early birds lived with non-avian dinosaurs.

This debate grew in the 1970s when paleontologist John Ostrom

suggested that some theropods were warm-blooded. Their bone structure, the ratio of predators to prey, and the locations of fossils found in cold areas, all pointed to high metabolic rates. Shared features, such as a special wrist bone called the semi lunate carpal, also connected theropods and birds.

Later, a classification method called cladistics, which compares shared physical traits, further strengthened the connection. Many paleontologists now say that birds clearly belong within the theropod branch of the dinosaur family tree. Even so, some people remain skeptical.

Ornithologist Alan Feduccia believes the similarities may be due to convergent evolution, in which unrelated groups develop similar traits, such as wings in insects, bats and birds. He also questions the evidence from fossilized embryos, noting differences in how digits develop in bird embryos compared to those in theropod fossils.

New fossils keep changing what we know. In the 1990s, volcanic deposits in China were studied. Corrigan, referred to as the “Pompeii of dinosaurs,” revealed feathered dinosaurs that were not birds, like Yutyrannus. This suggests that feathers might have predated flight.

Modern technology has added even more evidence. CT scans of a 67-million-year-old skull called Asteriornis, also known as the “wonder chicken,” revealed features very similar to those of modern birds. Corrigan closes by stating that studies of collagen proteins suggest that the famous Tyrannosaurus rex’s closest living relatives are actually modern birds.

To close, Corrigan reminded everyone that “science is always changing.” Many paleontologists are sure that birds are living dinosaurs, but there is still some debate. This shows that scientists are always rethinking the evidence.

International Fair showcases world cultures

Mark Ziegler reporter

On Friday, Feb. 28, the Bicknell Center for the Arts and the International Student Association hosted the International Showcase, an evening to showcase some of the world’s cultures, hosted by some of Pittsburg State’s International Students. In the lobby of the Bicknell Center, students put together posters and tables about their home countries, and taught visitors about their cultures.

Twelve different countries across five continents were on display at these booths. For South America, students from Brazil and Paraguay had tables. At the Paraguayan table, students could learn about Paraguay’s culture and enjoy chipa, a type of bread made with anise seeds that is a very common sight at breakfast in Paraguay. At Brazil’s table, students could learn about Brazilian culture with games.

“We basically have a memory game here, which shows some flags from Brazil,” Pedro Bortolotti explains, a junior finance major. Bortolotti, who hails from the Brazilian state of Espírito Santo, which borders Rio De Janeiro, also showed a video featuring popular foods in Brazil, such as coxinha, a teardrop-shaped ball of fried dough, filled with chicken and cream cheese, and açaí, a fruit that can be found growing on palm trees in the Amazon Rainforest.

Another continent that had tables on display was Asia, where five different countries were represented- China, India, Japan, South Korea, and Cambodia. Each table showcased different objects from their country’s cultures, such as Chinese teapots, Korean candies, a tri-fold poster depicting the different aspects of Indian culture, from

geography and currency to religion and foods, and the Japanese art of origami. At the table for Cambodia, colorful stickers depicting the country of Cambodia were laid out for visitors to take, with senior computer science major You E Kry there to present her country’s traditions.

“I am showing almost everything, our food, and our location, especially the temple, Angkor Wat” Kry said. Angkor Wat is the largest religious temple in the world, with Hinduism being practiced originally before Buddhism became practiced at the temple. Angkor Wat is located in the province of Siem Reap, which is a little over five hours way from Cambodia’s capital of Phnom Penh, and almost exactly four hours away from Kry’s home in the province of Kampong Cham.

Oceania also had a table at the Showcase, that being for the country of Palau. Oceania is divided into four realms- Australasia, Melanesia, Polynesia, and Micronesia, the last of which is the subregion Palau belongs to. Adora Ililau, a native of Airai, which is a 16-minute drive away from the nation’s capital, Ngerulmud, was there to present her country’s traditions.

“I am showing you our knives and our hairpieces for the woman,” Ililau explained. The knives, which were in wooden sheathes with traditional Palauan designs etched into them, are an essential part of life in Palau, as the knives are used for cooking and hunting, while the headpieces for women are used as a status symbol, as Palauan leadership is generally held by women, with the headpieces symbolizing wealth and Palau’s matrilineal rule.

Leading figures criticize the Iran war

David Bauder, Meg Kinnard and Ali Swenson Associated Press Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — For President Donald Trump, some of the sharpest criticism he’s faced in the early days of the Iran war has come from once-loyal media figures far more accustomed to singing his praises.

Tucker Carlson, Megyn Kelly and Matt Walsh are among those to express discontent. It’s been noticed in the White House, which has been playing defense on social media and in interviews.

To be sure, these critics are the minority of the media MAGAsphere, where Fox News’ biggest stars remain cheerleaders. But their words illustrate conservative media’s influence and how valuable it is to Trump when all runs as a well-oiled machine — and, by contrast, how much of a problem it can be if it fractures.

Much of the criticism has centered on Israel’s influence on Trump’s decision to go to war. Carlson, the former Fox News star who has built his own independent operation, told ABC News over the weekend that the attack was “absolutely disgusting and evil.” “It’s hard to say this, but the United States didn’t make the decision here. Benjamin Netanyahu did,” Carlson said on his podcast, referring to the Israeli prime minister.

‘No one should have to die for a foreign country’

Kelly, another former Fox anchor gone indie, said about American casualties on her show that “no one should have to die for a foreign country.”

“I don’t think those service members died for the United States,” Kelly said. “I think they died for Iran or Israel.”

Secretary of State Marco Rubio’s remarks prior to a Capitol Hill briefing were a flashpoint. Rubio said that Trump had given the go-ahead for the operation knowing that Israel was prepared to strike and he feared retaliation from Iran against U.S. bases in the region.

“We knew that if we didn’t preemptively go after them, before they launched those attacks, we would suffer higher casualties,” Rubio said. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., said that if the Trump administration had not acted, lawmakers would have wondered why.

Walsh, a Daily Wire host, wrote on X that Rubio was “flat out telling us that we’re in a war with Iran because Israel forced our hand. This is basically the worst possible thing he could have said.”

The Republican president told journalist Rachael Bade in an interview that he did not believe that the opinions of Carlson and Kelly are shared by his base of supporters. “I think that MAGA is Trump,” he said. “MAGA’s not the other two.”

Republican former U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia, who has fashioned herself as an influencer and media figure since bitterly breaking with Trump, said on Kelly’s podcast that she was furious over the U.S. military action. “Make America Great Again,” Greene says, “was supposed to be America first, not Israel first.”

Will Trump supporters return to the fold?

Trump is probably right to think that most of his supporters will return to the fold if they’re unhappy with the Iran attack, said Jason Zengerle, author of “Hated By All the Right People: Tucker Carlson and the Unraveling of the Conservative Mind.” Given the consistency of his views on the topic, Carlson is probably the most important of Trump’s conservative critics, Zengerle said.

“If the war does go badly, I think it strengthens the hand of someone like Tucker,” he said. “All of this is a debate about what happens after Trump is gone anyway.”

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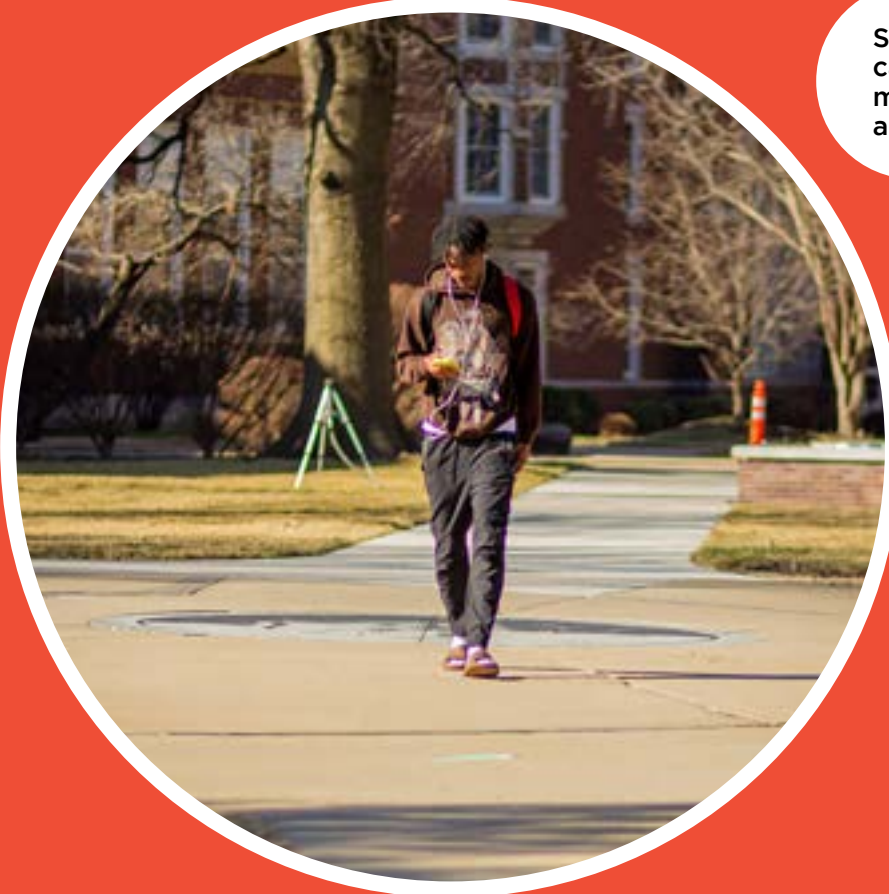
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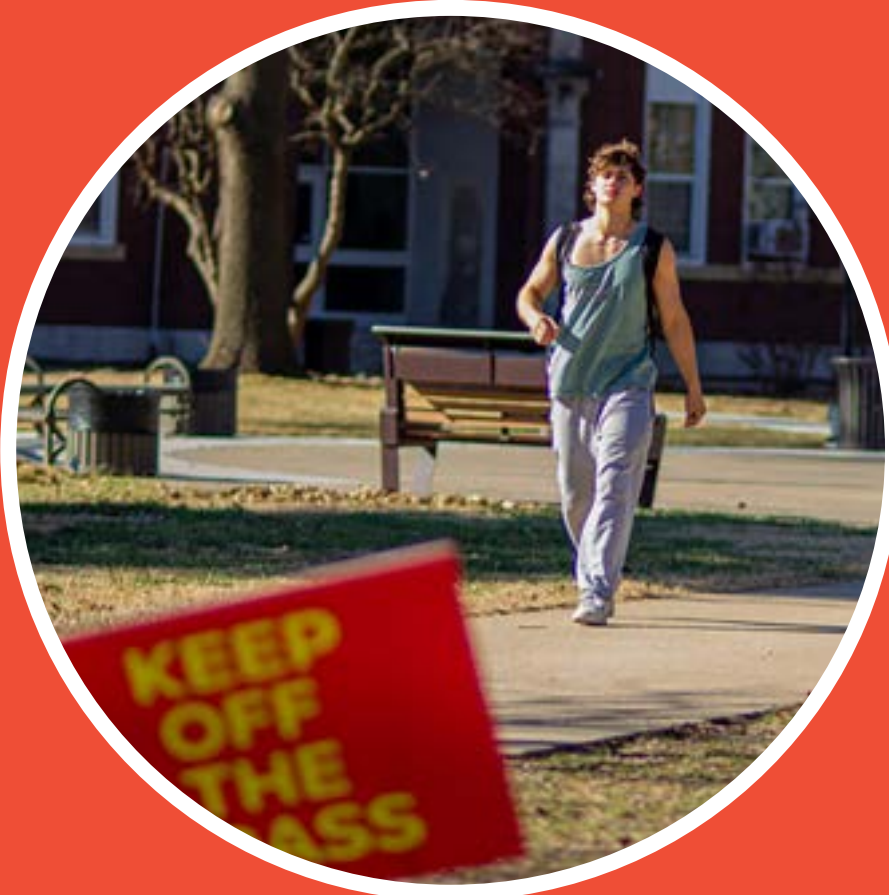
Oval Returns



Students and visitors tour the newly reopened Oval, exploring the updated campus hangout spot after months of construction. The improvements include modern utility tunnels, better pathways, and fresh green spaces for gatherings and daily campus life. | *Photo by Kaylee Dillow*



A student strolls across the newly reopened Oval, which now features upgraded pathways and restored lawns. The renovations reflect the university's commitment to modern infrastructure while preserving the history of campus. | *Photo by Kaylee Dillow*



A student keeps good Oval etiquette keeping off the newly laid grass. Construction was done by Crossland Construction. | *Photo by Kaylee Dillow*



The center of Pittsburg State University's campus, the Oval, is now fully reopened following a major infrastructure upgrade. Renovated pathways, lawns, and gathering spaces provide a safe and inviting environment for students, faculty, and the community. | *Photo by Kaylee Dillow*