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BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

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Remembering Officer Sean Sluganski (1990 - 2023)



Memorials to Sean Sluganski had been held throughout the previous week, including a candlelight vigil at the Blue Top Pavilion at Renziehausen Park, next door to the campus.

Sluganski, 32, was shot and killed in the line of duty on Feb. 6 while responding to a domestic dispute between a man and his mother on Wilson Street in McKeesport.

(Photo credits: Carlin Whalen)



FRONT COVER: On Feb. 14, thousands of law enforcement officers from across the state gathered with thousands of people from Baldwin to West Mifflin to White Oak to McKeesport, to celebrate the life of fallen McKeesport Police Officer, Sean Sluganski, and to pay their final respects to him. Here, along Eden Park Boulevard, just behind the Penn State Greater Allegheny Campus, the procession of law enforcement vehicles passed, led by the hearse carrying Sluganski's body, en route to his final resting place at Jefferson Memorial Cemetery in Pleasant Hills.

A Look Ahead at Student Success and the Spring Semester

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Student success has been an important focal point for the Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) campus and tremendous progress has been made for the focus of specific goals.

In the recent Town Hall meetings involving student success, employees zoned in on defining its definition. “We’ve defined student success as progress to and through critical transition points during their time at PSUGA,” Dr. Megan Nagel, PSUGA’s interim chancellor, said. The three critical transition points include the end of the first semester, the fourth semester, and finally graduation.

Each transition point is looking for specific things, she said. For example, it’s really important to make sure students have a good first semester. First semester success involves 12+ credits with an average of a 2.5 GPA, while being engaged with their academics and career plans.

By the fourth semester, students should have entered their major and feel some sense of belonging and connection to the campus, Nagel said.

One thing that Nagel wants to avoid is having students come to class and go home immediately after.

“Being able to clearly define student success will help us make plans to specifically meet those goals.”

The newly renovated commuter lounge on the first floor of the Student Community Center (SCC) helps with this goal. “I’ve heard that there have been lots of students down there,” Nagel said. “It’s an inviting and comfortable space and I hope students, commuter and non-commuters, find a home down there.”

Students can stream movies and television shows, and there are many activities that are

intentionally planned out for this space.

All indications are pointing in the direction that things are returning back to normal. “There has definitely been an uptick in reengagement,” Nagel said. Students traveled to Florida last semester and will be traveling to Rome and Seattle later this year.

Student Government Association (SGA) has also been going strong. “It’s just finding the places where people want to engage and really investing there,” Nagel said.

The Multidisciplinary Study (MDS) Committee has been hard at work getting the MDS degree ready for the fall. “All the faculty are planning the fall schedule,” Nagel said,

which will be ready for students to enroll for the Fall 2023 Semester.

Also, the Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Management (RPTM) degree has attracted many students and Nagel expects it will continue to grow, “as students learn more about the opportunities it can provide.”

Before coming to PSUGA, this degree might not be on one’s radar, but can quickly change after learning more about it, she said. “I am really excited about the opportunities it can provide students.”

As far as the Wednesday Walk-n-Talks, “We have been all over,” Nagel said. Recently, they walked through all the buildings on campus.

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Penn State staff members meet at the Town Hall meeting to discuss student success (Photo courtesy: psugainterimchancellor Instagram page)

Pennsylvania Activists Enlighten on Leadership and Inspiration

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There is always more than what meets the eye to a person observing a protest. Just ask Dr. Johnathan White, associate teaching professor in history and Black studies at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) and local activist, Giuseppe Bagheera.

“Often when I ask students ‘are you an activist,’ the first image that comes to mind is the 1960s,” White said. “When you study the Black freedom struggle, you see a wide array of methods and strategies for resistance, but what you always see is resistance.”

The scholar, now in his 15th year at PSUGA, explained that his first experience of activism had been in the 1990s in college where he experienced a drug store protest about its wages for workers. “It was chaotic because you had a lot of older people (working) there and that was their life...we were college students so we thought I’m not in the real world in terms of my employment,” he said.

“There was a breaking point with one of our friends. We found out she was working at this place

[the drug store] afterwards. That was my first time in that chaos, just following people but not really knowing the issues to make a real stand,” White said. He added that the people from the store were shouting at him saying “y’all don’t understand even though you’re in college, you don’t



Giuseppe during a protest advocating for Black voices (Photo courtesy: Giuseppe Bagheera)

know what it’s like.”

There are nine ways “we can protest and really number one is the first liners.” White added that you can then see eight other things that are all critical to the freedom struggle “that really do not have anything to do with being on the front line,” he added. The others include organizers, strategists,

diplomats, helpers, financiers, storytellers, sustainers, restorers and healers, and technicians.

One of White’s favorite quotes which he lives by is from Maya Angelou that “love is a condition so strong that it keeps the stars in the firmament and pushes the blood through veins.”

This kind of love Angelou speaks of demonstrates Giuseppe Bagheera’s compassion for people. She believes she has been “educating myself and others about humanitarian issues and world issues” for as long as she can remember.

“An activist cannot be active if they are not willing to learn more,” she said.

Bagheera’s perception of activism was labeled as not being “an easy job” and “not for the weak or lazy.” She said that it would be impossible to be an activist if one does not feel inclined to learn more. Bagheera mentioned that she had been encouraged her whole life to use her voice.

“My experience with protesting is a journey in itself. Protesting doesn’t have to be an entire march...it just happened to be around the time of 2019...COVID...lockdown...it was just a perfect opportunity to use a space and time where there was nothing...and a lot of void that could be filled up,” Bagheera said.

Although the role of an activist is not thought to be a professional title, it is still an imperative role to play in society. Often, activists experience trial and error and must develop their own way of being proactive.

Bagheera made herself an independent organizer and temporarily partnered with Black Young & Educated (B.Y.E), a nonprofit organization led by youth to advocate for “Black voices through community and media” during that year.

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“The marches were given many names, the most notable being ‘Civil Saturdays’ every week for months on end,” Bagheera said.

She stopped near the end of 2020 due to being overwhelmed from attending protests, weekly and daily meetings. “It really drains you, and I didn’t expect it to because I have never been drained before. I’ve always had excessive energy and never a lack of, so when it came down to putting my own well-being first, I had to stop protesting.”

Bagheera responded to the idea of attending another protest anytime soon by stating, “I think that time and place is a thing and it is necessary and at that time and place it was perfect. I can’t wait for another time and place.”

Bagheera added that at that time she discovered



that her voice could be used in a variety of ways, “other than screaming on the streets of Pennsylvania - and I love to scream... it’s useful to learn from your lessons and I learned from my lesson of activism.

“I’ve met many activists and none of them are of the same breed,” Bagheera said. “It is really just a bunch of different people who can cohesively announce a message

that is needed.”

She said that people who joined in the protests were band members, outspoken people, activists that started the protest, and creatives. “It was really nice to be there. It was so loud and beautiful but also intense, so that can be bad for some people, you know, intensity is not for the weak. It was really a lot.”

When asked what traits characterized a leader, White and Bagheera cite nearly the same qualities.

“A leader to me is someone who is courageous by speaking their truth - not fearless, but able to push through their fears,” White said. “Leadership is the courage and compassion to follow your convictions and to stand up for the least of these.”

When asked if he thought of himself as a leader, White responded, “There are certain times I try to model things.

I am a leader in a sense that I have had formal titles, but it is really a form of when God is calling me, responding to that and just trying to love the people.”

The professor said that people who inspire him are his mother for nurturing him, his dad for working for their family, his sister who has always carried a “fearless” attitude, and his brother who has always been a “family man.”

Bagheera thinks of herself as a leader because “I lead myself, I don’t let anyone else’s thoughts, emotions, or opinions affect my own. I observe my own thoughts and realize that my thoughts are not myself.”

Then she paused for a second and said, “It’s only an observation. Life is the observation I have to learn from.”



Walk-n-Talks A Place to Connect

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“It’s actually been really useful,” Nagel said. “You get to see staff you don’t always get to see or see students in spaces where you’re not always there.”

Also, she gets to check on classrooms that were renovated, which is something she doesn’t get to see often.

For the first time ever, a student participated in one of the walks with Nagel and staff members. Nagel doesn’t have

concerns that not many students participate.

“For me, it’s really about providing a space for people to connect informally with each other...whether it works for folks or not, it’s really up to them.”

As many know, PSUGA is an Apple Distinguished School which helps to provide all students and staff with a free iPad.

“Besides the honor of it, you become a represen-

tative for other schools,” Nagel said. In fact, on March 1, Nagel will take a trip to the Apple offices in Boston. While there, she will be on a panel with another academic administrator to discuss PSUGA’s

journey on how we got to where we are.

“I’m really looking forward to that,” Nagel said. “It’s fun to talk about digital fluency and the impact it’s having on campus.”

WALK AND TALK

Join Interim Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer Dr. Megan Nagel every Wednesday for a “Walk and Talk” from **8:15 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.** beginning in Frable Building Lobby.

#WELLNESSWEDNESDAYS

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- the change-of-campus process
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- learn more about your academic college
- receive important information about your campus change
- enjoy a free lunch, and more

Register by March 17.

CHANGE OF CAMPUS

Sen. John Fetterman Checks Into Hospital for Depression

This is a story from the Associated Press, written by Mary Clare Jalonick and Marc Levy.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)--Pennsylvania Democratic Sen. John Fetterman, still recovering from a stroke, has checked himself into Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to seek treatment for clinical depression, his office said Thursday.

Fetterman, who has struggled with the

ing physician of Congress, Dr. Brian P. Monahan, who recommended inpatient care at Walter Reed, Jentleson said.

Post-stroke depression is common, with one in three stroke patients suffering from it, and it is treatable through anti-depressant medication and counseling, doctors say.

Fetterman, 53, is in his first weeks as a U.S. senator after winning the seat held by now-retired Republican, Pat Toomey,

voluntary basis,” Jentleson said. “After examining John, the doctors at Walter Reed told us that John is getting the care he needs, and will soon be back to himself.”

Fetterman’s wife, Gisele, said she was proud of Fetterman “for asking for help and getting the care he needs.”

“After what he’s been through in the past year, there’s probably no one who wanted to talk about his own health less

Fetterman suffered the stroke days before last May’s primary election and spent much of the summer recovering off the campaign trail.

The stroke nearly killed him, he has said.

As a result of the stroke, Fetterman underwent surgery to implant a pacemaker with a defibrillator to manage two heart conditions, atrial fibrillation and cardiomyopathy.

He returned to campaigning in public in August, but refused to release his medical records or allow his doctors to answer reporters’ questions. His health became a central issue in the campaign, as Oz questioned whether his opponent was honest about the effects of the stroke and whether Fetterman was fit to serve.

Fetterman’s campaign in October released a letter from a Pittsburgh-area physician who said he exhibited no effects on his “cognitive ability” or his ability to think and reason after the stroke, was recovering well and “can work full duty in public office.”

He continues to suffer the aftereffects of the stroke, in particular auditory processing disorder, which can render someone unable to speak **(Continued on next page)**



Photo courtesy: Wikimedia Commons

aftereffects of a stroke he suffered last May, checked himself in Wednesday night.

“While John has experienced depression off and on throughout his life, it only became severe in recent weeks,” his Chief of Staff, Adam Jentleson, said in a statement.

Fetterman was evaluated Monday by the attend-

ing in a hard-fought contest against GOP nominee Dr. Mehmet Oz. Fetterman, who was Pennsylvania’s lieutenant governor, defeated the celebrity heart surgeon by 5 percentage points, flipping a seat that was key to Democrats holding the Senate majority.

“John agreed, and he is receiving treatment on a

than John,” she wrote on Twitter.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York said Fetterman “is getting the help he needs” and is expected to return soon, but declined to answer questions about Fetterman’s condition.

The Democratic caucus is “totally behind him,” Schumer said.

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fluidly and quickly process spoken conversation into meaning. To manage it, Fetterman uses devices in conversations, meetings and congressional hearings that transcribe spoken words in real time.

Dr. Bruce Ovbiagele, associate dean and professor of neurology at the University of California-San Francisco, said studies have shown that someone who suffered from depression before having a stroke — like Fetterman — is at greater risk of having post-stroke depression.

It's not clear why strokes tend to cause depression, Ovbiagele said, but strokes act on the brain and can affect behavior, and people who are having trouble recovering can get frustrated, causing depression.

Dr. Eric Lenze, head of the psychiatry department at Washington University in St. Louis, said it is heroic that a major political figure — Fetterman — admitted to being treated for depression instead of trying to hide it.

"It's when people admit to it we start to see a reduction in the stigma around mental illness," Lenze said. "I'm glad he admitted it. I found it a brave thing to do."

Senators from both parties were supportive after Fetterman's office announced the news, applauding him for getting help and acknowledging that he needed it.

Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat in the Senate, learned about Fetterman's hospitalization as he walked off the Senate floor after making a speech.

"I stand by John Fetterman and his family," Durbin said. "This is a challenge, unimaginable challenge that he's faced in life. He deserves the very best in professional care and I'm sure he'll get it."

He said he believed Fetterman would be "back in our ranks" and could serve a full six-year term.

The No. 2 Republican, Sen. John Thune of South Dakota, acknowledged he doesn't know Fetterman very well yet said senators were hoping and praying for his recovery.

"He's been through a lot physically and mentally," Thune said. "He's got to take care of himself and his family. And I think everybody supports that."

Fetterman's office has said tests found no evidence of a new stroke or a seizure.

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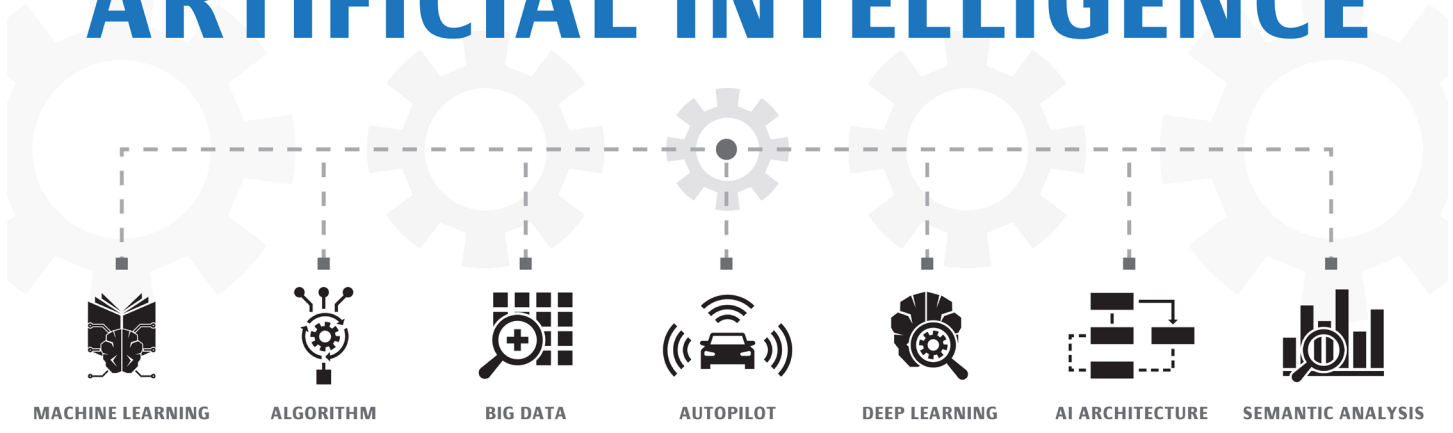
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Human vs. Machine?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



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On Jan. 17, a paper was released by the University of Pennsylvania which indicated that GPT3, an artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot developed by research laboratory, OpenAI, was able to pass an MBA exam. Christian Terwiesch, the professor who conducted the research for the paper, claimed the chatbot achieved a score between a B- and a B.

Many people, including educators and students, have seen artificial intelligence as an opportunity for criticism and discussion, with some stating their worry over students cheating via chatbot, and others claiming this development to be a mark of shame on the current education system.

In an e-mail statement, Victoria Garwood, director of strategic planning and communications at Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA), shared the University’s position on artificial

intelligence. “The use of artificial intelligence tools in higher education is receiving media attention. The University’s Digital Learning Academic Council has for months been discussing and evaluating the emergence of AI tools such as ChatGPT and how that impacts teaching and learning across Penn State.

“At Greater Allegheny, a tenant of our Digital Fluency Project is the ethical use of digital tools and applications. Our efforts in the digital fluency space will continue

to help students, faculty and staff evaluate and use information responsibly,” the statement concluded.

Dr. Jennifer Breese, assistant professor of cybersecurity and information sciences and technology at Greater Allegheny, explained the technology, saying that the purpose is to get artificial intelligence programs to make decisions similar to a human brain.

“The next step would be the singularity,” Breese said, “where it’s actually making decisions the same way that you and I would make it. The likelihood that it’ll get there, people go back and forth with that.” She said that the more information put into an AI, the better it will perform.

According to Dr. Zack Furness, associate professor of communications at Greater Allegheny, there will likely be interesting

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(Continued from page 9) uses for some of the developments in AI technology. “The technologies are impressive regardless. As far as the kind of claims and ideas about what they’re going to do, or how they might revolutionize school or work or information or all of the above, I’m always a little

DALL-E, which has been criticized for biases regarding its training, and which, along with a similar application called Midjourney, has come under fire for its potential transgression of copyright and art ownership laws.

“AI is going to exist even if people don’t want it to,” said Dr. Lori

“infringed intellectual property rights, including copyright in content owned or represented by Getty Images.”

A group of artists has also filed a lawsuit against companies Stability AI Ltd., Midjourney Inc., and DeviantArt Inc. Artists Sarah Andersen, Kelly McKernan and Karla

said, “and I think there are artists that are having that happen to them now. I haven’t come across anybody that’s been happy about it in my limited dealings with it online.”

In late 2022, many users on ArtStation, a platform where artists showcase their work, protested the company’s favorable policy towards AI art by posting images with the letters AI crossed out, and text at the bottom reading “No to AI Generated Images.” The company responded by removing the protest images from its trending section.

Hepner said that she could see a case of an artist using AI as a part of their artwork in an ethical manner. “I think there’s interesting possibilities for it for the future. We’re kind of pretty early to the game... If that’s happening and there probably are some artists out there trying to do that... They haven’t been widely published or widely exhibited yet.”

Las Vegas-based musician and visual artist, Luke Conover, also known by their stage name gr3bb0, said, “I already mostly do collage and photo editing and stuff to make unique pieces. So if I had a way to like, make those individual pieces I use without having to scour and find



bit skeptical about that.”

Furness did not find it remarkable that an AI was able to memorize content and pass a test. He said that he understands the anxiety some educators have, but that it also only takes some creativity to assess a student’s learning.

OpenAI has also developed an AI art-creation application called

Hepner, professor of integrative arts at Greater Allegheny. “It’s something that I hope will evolve into a tool for artists rather than a thing that right now is primarily copying existing artists without their permission.”

Around mid-January, Getty Images filed a lawsuit against Stability AI Ltd., stating in a press release that their AI art program, Stable Diffusion,

Ortiz allege that the software developed by these companies uses copyrighted images without the consent or even knowledge of the creators of the images. In addition, the creators are not compensated for the usage of their images.

“If an AI were going to use my artwork without permission to be trained on, then I would not be a happy person,” Hepner

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already existing pieces that are within public domain, if I could just kind of come up with a component that I can put into my collages, it would be nice. But the way people are talking about it (AI) right now and using it as it is, is more as a replacement for actual artists, which is no good," he added.

OpenAI has also developed an AI music generator called Jukebox, and other AI music generators have been developed since. On that subject, Conover's opinions were similar, stating that, AI music should not be taken as actual art, but used as components or starting points for an actual artist to develop upon.

One of the biggest fears people have regarding AI is its potential for misinformation. On Feb. 3, music producer, David Guetta, posted a snippet of what appeared to be a collaborative song he made with rapper, Eminem.



Later, Guetta revealed that what many thought was Eminem's voice was actually an artificial replication.

Some Internet users have deepfaked the voices of popular figures, such as Joe Rogan, and created meme videos of the popular Internet personality, saying things he has never said on his show. Others have used deepfake technology with more nefarious intent, creating pornography of people without their consent.

Earlier this year, it was revealed that popular streamers and Internet personalities, Pokimane and Maya Higa, had deepfake pornography made with their likenesses

without their consent.

Breese stated that as the technology gets simpler, it will become easier for the average person to use. In addition, she is concerned about the number of data points and information people put onto the Internet about themselves.

She said that there is also a risk of this kind of technology "leading to certain kinds of cyberattacks through impersonation."

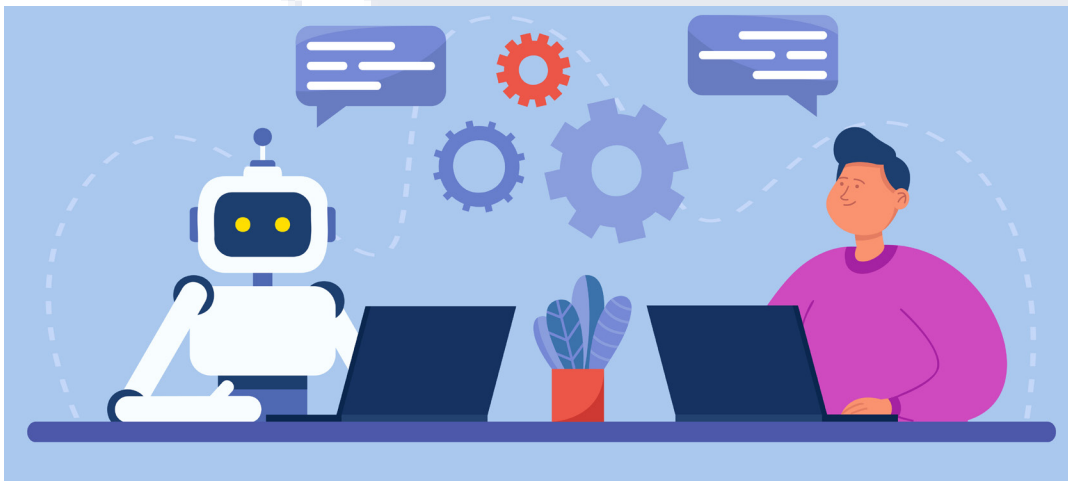
Furness also has concerns with how some kinds of AI technology will affect people's relationship between information and misinformation, and that they already have a difficult time being able to "gauge what kinds of

things that they should trust already."

"I think if you're going to give people the tools for either low-cost or free to be able to manipulate the thing that people often use as the default, this is the real proof in the form of video and photo, I think is something that is almost exclusively going to be used for nefarious purposes," he said.

Furness stated that one of the risks of the development of AI technology was the lack of oversight of tech companies. According to the professor, there are many people who work in government who aren't particularly competent in the field of technological literacy.

"Unfortunately," Furness said, "I don't think that there's much that's going to put the brakes on this, but I think it's extraordinarily dangerous. The ethical issues alone are massive, but unfortunately those aren't the kind of issues that concern people in tech companies."



“Made In McKeesport”

Mama Pepino’s: A Half-Century of Pizza... and Still Counting

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February is famous for many holidays and celebrations: Groundhog Day (six more weeks of winter this year, Phil said); Valentine’s Day (mark those calendars now and don’t forget that someone special); and Presidents Day (no day off from classes, sorry!)

Since there are now many days of celebration that were not celebratory in the past, mark down a new one for February—National Pizza Day on Feb. 9. Not sure how to celebrate this one? Well, current owner, Larry Melocchi, and his family suggest a slice of a pie and a soft drink anytime at their pizzeria, Mama Pepino’s.

Mama Pepino’s, which means “Mama’s Little Joe” in Italian, is a small family-owned business with around six staff members, that started back in the McKeesport/

White Oak area in 1970, and it is still going strong nearly 53 years later.

Melocchi’s father, Ronald Melocchi, previously ran the Casa Loma Lounge, a local bar, back in the 1960’s. Unfortunately, the family was told that a Pennsylvania turnpike exit was going to be put right through the Rainbow Shopping Center in White Oak, so the bar went vacant and it closed. When the turnpike exit never materialized, the bar, however, never reopened.

Ronald Melocchi still wanted to do something. He decided to open Mama Pepino’s, which was originally located right down the street from campus on Oneil Boulevard where L. Germack Heating and Cooling currently is located.

Back in 1981, however, someone bought out the building, so the Melocchis had to move again, this time, finding a building right up the street. They have been

there ever since with no plans on moving again.

When they first moved to the new building, they didn’t just have pizza. “We had catering and vending machines,” Larry said, remembering his family’s focus back then. “We did whatever it took to get to the place together to start bringing in customers.” As they got the business going, they no longer needed the additional services and just focused on making pizza.

In 1985, Ronald Melocchi passed away. Larry and his older brother, who is also named Ronald, were forced to step up-to-the-plate to keep the family business running. “We just kept working and this is what it is today,” Larry said.

Starting off, Larry began as a team member. “I started off making pizza boxes, putting stuff away, making sauce, grating cheese, cleaning, and stuff like that,” he said. Then, he worked his way up to become the owner of the



Mama Pepino’s held a Christmas Party with many of their staff and family members.

building and the business.

Larry looked up to his father and admired the way he did things, especially with how he treated his customers. Larry wanted to be like him. His father was very likable in the community.

Ronald Melocchi knew a lot of people and had a lot of friends, which Larry thought would be great to have as well.

“You pick the things up from your parents based on how they act,” he said. So, he kept many things just as his father did, including some of the same recipes.

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“We still make the hoagies the same as he did,” he said. “We used to use a premade shell. Now, we use a fresh dough,” and he added that the fresh dough is also for his own, square Sicilian-style pizza shells.

In addition to his father, he received a lot of help from Joe Folino who used to have his own Italian shop along Route 30, which is where Larry would buy some of his products.

Other times there might be a problem with some of the equipment. “Sometimes it’s a simple fix... other times, it’s not.”

He has had to figure out how to fix the oven, for example, but that was an easy fix. A more difficult fix might require him to order parts, which can take days for them to come in.

In addition, it can be hard to find professionals to work on these problems. “We find them

down,” Larry said. Nobody was able to eat out, so everyone resorted to pick-up or delivery. Larry laughed and jokingly said, “We need another pandemic!”

Interestingly, they do not advertise for customers. “We used to (advertise) back in the 80s,” he said. “We used to be in the Penny Saver, which was a big thing back then... For some reason today, you don’t really have to advertise.”

Word of mouth, he said, and a good reputation, are the best ways they get the name out there. The people really enjoy his product, so they keep bringing in business.

One thing that keeps customers coming back is the price. Larry tries to keep everything at Mama Pepino’s at a fair price. “Everybody remembers price,” he said. “Other places keep increasing their prices, but you have to absorb them sometimes.”



Unfortunately, he cannot do much about inflation, but he has a good mindset about the issue. “It’ll pass. It’s like a cold,” he said.

Mama Pepino’s is located at 2417 Oneil Boulevard, in White Oak, which is right down the road from Penn State Greater Allegheny’s (PSUGA) campus. It’s only about a five-minute walk. One day, order a pizza, grab a few friends, and take a little trip down to the pizzeria.

Photos courtesy: The Melocchi’s photo gallery



“He showed me the ways and helped me out just as much as my dad,” Larry said. “Truthfully, I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for Joe Folino, too.”

Not everything about owning a business is easy, Sometimes, Larry said, it can come with a lot of challenges.

“You have authorities to deal with, making sure stuff is up to code,” he said. He has been trying to get a new roof, but an engineer must come to inspect the building before things can move forward.

[professionals] along the way, but they either pass away or give up their profession,” which creates a hassle for his family business.

There are, however, good things that come from owning a business. Larry mentioned that business is going well, especially because of the pandemic. Because they did not have many seats for “dine-in,” the COVID-19 pandemic actually boosted the business and brought the people to Mama Pepino’s.

“All the places that were sit down were shut



Larry (right) shares a laugh in the kitchen of Mama Pepino’s

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

“The Perks of Being a Wallflower” A Beautifully Painful Tale of Recovery

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The Perks of Being a Wallflower, filmed in 2011—and set on location in 1990s Pittsburgh—with an all-star ensemble cast, is an excellent coming-of-age film that is able to deviate from other typical coming-of-age stories by delving into deep mental health issues and by offering a touching message of acceptance and understanding.

The film follows Charlie, an introverted high school freshman, who is trying to find his place in the world. What makes this film stand out is the hard-hitting emphasis on the trauma and mental issues that Charlie goes through. The film touches on subjects such as suicide, sexual abuse, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), loneliness, struggling to find your place, among others to which viewers can relate.

Judging other coming-of-age stories, deeper psychological issues like these are typically not delved into as much. A lot of them are much more surface level, but *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* excels in being

completely original and relatable.

The film’s screenplay is based on the best-selling novel by Stephen Chbosky, a Pittsburgh native, who not only wrote the screenplay, which is somewhat based on his own growing up years, but he directed it, too.

At the start of the movie, we see Charlie start his freshman year of

high school with many doubts and worries, but he is quickly befriended by a group of senior students who help him find his place in the world.

Moreover, with the help of his new friends, Charlie is able to open up and receive the healing that he desperately needs.

Incidentally, this film really captures just how hard and painful the road to recovery can be.

Nonetheless, it shows that it is indeed possible and it shines a light on all of the non-glamorous

aspects of healing and getting better. However, this is what makes it so great, so real, and so grounded.

We are used to seeing a person’s perfect story that often we forget just how big of a tribulation recovery can truly be.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower is completely genuine with the audience in lending a helping hand to anybody who has ever

driving through the Fort Pitt Tunnel as they embrace each other fully and rejoice in the beauty of life and companionship. It is a truly touching scene that is accompanied by the song “Heroes” by the late singer-songwriter, David Bowie.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower stars Logan Lerman as Charlie; English actress,



struggled in life, which is just about everyone.

The city of Pittsburgh serves as the backdrop for the story, which just makes it quite literally a hit even closer to home. Viewers will recognize scenes from throughout the area, including the Hollywood Theater in Dormont, Upper St. Clair and Peters Township high schools, Mt. Washington, and the Parkways East and West.

One of the most iconic scenes from the film features the characters

Emma Watson as Sam (Samantha); Ezra Miller as Patrick; Paul Rudd as Mr. Anderson, Charlie’s teacher; and Kate Walsh as Charlie’s mother. It is streaming now on YouTube, Apple TV, Amazon Prime Video, and Hulu.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower shows that no matter what you have gone through in life, you have a reason to be here and that there is a place where you belong on this Earth. It shows that “we are infinite.”

April 14th-16th, 2023
Weekend Excursion

Pennhurst History & Paranormal Tour

Trip includes hotel,
food, transportation and
visits to Valley Forge
Historic Park & the King
of Prussia Mall.



PennState
Greater Allegheny

Student Affairs

\$40

BOOKS TO READ DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH & EVERY MONTH AFTER!!!



RACISM NOT RACE

ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

JOSEPH L. GRAVES JR.
AND ALAN H. GOODMAN

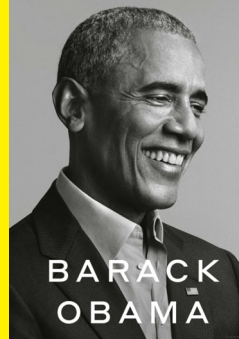
“In this book, two distinguished scientists tackle common misconceptions about race, human biology, and racism. Using an accessible question-and-answer format, Joseph L. Graves, Jr. and Alan H. Goodman explain the differences between social and biological notions of race. Although there are many meaningful human genetic variations, they do not map onto socially constructed racial categories. Drawing on evidence from both natural and social science, Graves and Goodman dismantle the malignant myth of gene-based racial difference. They demonstrate that the ideology of racism created races and show why the inequalities ascribed to race are in fact caused by racism.”

Summary from Google Books

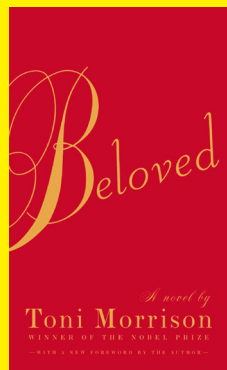
“A Promised Land is extraordinarily intimate and introspective—the story of one man’s bet with history, the faith of a community organizer tested on the world stage. Obama is candid about the balancing act of running for office as a Black American, bearing the expectations of a generation buoyed by messages of “hope and change,” and meeting the moral challenges of high-stakes decision-making. He is frank about the forces that opposed him at home and abroad, open about how living in the White House affected his wife and daughters, and unafraid to reveal self-doubt and disappointment. Yet he never wavers from his belief that inside the great, ongoing American experiment, progress is always possible.”

Summary from Google Books

A PROMISED LAND



BARACK
OBAMA

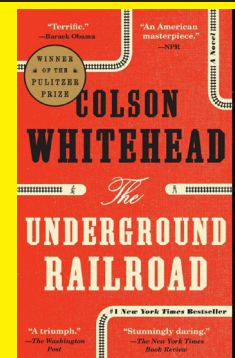


“Sethe was born a slave and escaped to Ohio, but eighteen years later she is still not free. Sethe has too many memories of Sweet Home, the beautiful farm where so many hideous things happened. And Sethe’s new home is haunted by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: Beloved.”

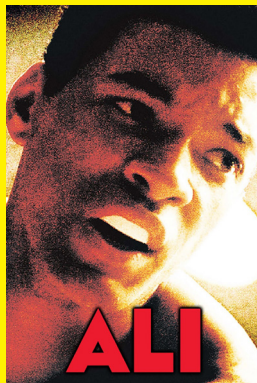
Summary from Google Books

“Cora is a slave on a cotton plantation in Georgia. An outcast even among her fellow Africans, she is on the cusp of womanhood—where greater pain awaits. And so when Caesar, a slave who has recently arrived from Virginia, urges her to join him on the Underground Railroad, she seizes the opportunity and escapes with him.”

Summary from Google Books



MOVIES TO WATCH DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH & EVERY MONTH AFTER!!!



“With wit and athletic genius, with defiant rage and inner grace, Muhammad Ali forever changed the American landscape. Fighting all comers, Ali took on the law, conventions, the status quo and the war -- as well as the fists in front of him. Ali both ignited and mirrored the conflicts of his time and ours to become one of the most admired fighters in the world. Forget now what you thought you knew.”

Summary from Rotten Tomatoes

“Legendary soul musician Ray Charles is portrayed by Jamie Foxx in this Oscar-winning biopic. Young Ray watches his 7-year-old brother drown at age seven. When he loses his sight at the age of 9, his hardworking mother (Sharon Warren) urges him not to feel sorry for himself. He rises through the ranks of the Seattle jazz scene, struggling with drug addiction and infidelity while on the road. Supported by his wife (Kerry Washington), Ray Charles redefines soul music and inspires a generation.”

Summary from Rotten Tomatoes



“Ron Stallworth is the first African-American detective to serve in the Colorado Springs Police Department. Determined to make a name for himself, Stallworth bravely sets out on a dangerous mission: infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan. The detective soon recruits a more seasoned colleague, Flip Zimmerman, into the undercover investigation of a lifetime. Together, they team up to take down the extremist hate group as the organization aims to sanitize its rhetoric to appeal to the mainstream.”

Summary from Rotten Tomatoes

Books and movies can be found in the online catalog, as well as in the Swank Motion Picture Database: Swank Motion Pictures, <https://digitalcampus.swankmp.net/psu279437>. Search by movie title or actor.

Also, navigate to catalog.libraries.psu.edu, and type in the keyword search:

Black History Month, to receive a wide selection of books that can be placed on hold and checked out from the Penn State Libraries.

Most of these titles may be at other campuses, so they may need to be ordered. Always ask a library worker for assistance.

Kennywood, Sandcastle, Idlewild Announce Opening Days, Special Events, Jobs

Kennywood, Pittsburgh's thrill and entertainment destination, will open for the 2023 season on Saturday, April 22 to continue its 125th Celebration. Sister parks Idlewild and SoakZone and Sandcastle Waterpark will open May 20 and May 27, respectively. All three parks have an exciting event lineup for the upcoming season, including new experiences and exclusive Passholder Perk Days.

Kennywood will takeoff with the all-new 125th Celebration Weekends event, starting

opening day, April 22. Daily summer operation begins Memorial Day weekend, along with the launch of Spinvasion, the first ride of its kind in the United States.

Summertime will also feature the return of night rides with select 10 p.m. closes and an expanded Bites and Pints Food & Drink Festival in June and July, plus, all-new exclusive Passholder Perk Days each month all year long. Phantom Fall Fest and Holiday Lights cap off the upcoming season.

Idlewild and SoakZone will welcome

guests and Passholders May 20.

Starting Memorial Day Weekend, Idlewild debuts a revamped Kids Fest, Celebrate America during Fourth of July weekend, and Neighbor Days in July with expanded Daniel Tiger and his Neighborhood Friends meet-and-greets.

The park will offer a series of Passholder Perk Days throughout the summer and the season will wrap up in the fall with the return of the popular HALLOWBOO!

Sandcastle splashes on the scene Memorial

Day weekend. Jammin' July returns with live entertainment poolside, plus the debut of new Passholder Perk Days all summer long. With stunning park enhancements, 16 water slides, 4 pools, a lazy river, and signature food offerings – Sandcastle is Pittsburgh's Hometown Waterpark.

All three parks are now accepting applications to fill more than 2,000 positions available for the upcoming season. Job opportunities include food and beverage attendants, ride operators, lifeguards, admission, and security among others.

Kennywood, Sandcastle, and Idlewild and SoakZone offer their employees competitive wages, growth opportunities, flexible schedules, and several great perks, starting pay is \$15 an hour.

All applicants must be 14 years of age or older. Applicants can apply online. In-person job fairs are scheduled for March 11 and April 1. Interested candidates should visit each park's website for additional details.

Information courtesy: Kennywood, Sandcastle, and Idlewild parks.



Kenny Kangaroo and friends (Photo courtesy: Palace Entertainment)

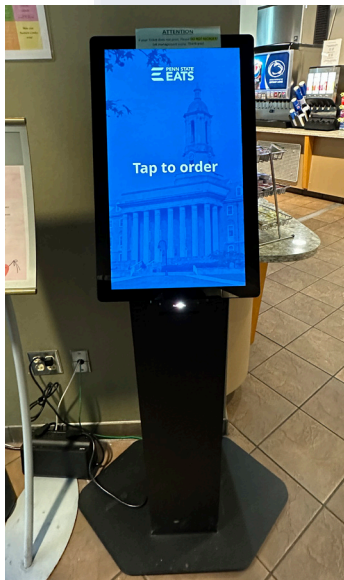
Opinion: From Where I Sit - Why the Kiosks in the Café Metro Need To Be Fixed...Food for Thought

ZACH PETRULAK

Contributing Writer

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While classes and professors change semester-to-semester, students on the Penn State Greater Allegheny (PSUGA) Campus are used to one consistency during their time on campus: the Café Metro in the Student Community



Center (SCC). However, the Spring 2023 semester brought a new upgrade to the Café: two new kiosks where you order your food.

This new system imitates those used by

gas stations like Sheetz or Wawa. Students who want to buy food go to a kiosk, order what food item they want, go to the counter to pick up their food, and then check out. That is how, at least to my understanding, the system is supposed to work.

Unfortunately, like many innovations added to an existing system, there are some complications.

To begin, many of the food options that are available to purchase are not displayed on the kiosks. While this may seem like a minor inconvenience since most students can simply go to the counter and ask for the food item they want, there is more to this minor issue than it seems. Because the staff is now focused on making the food that is ordered from the kiosks, it becomes problematic for students who simply want to just ask for their food item.

In my personal experience, it seems rude to interrupt staff members while they are serving

someone else. As such, I will wait longer than necessary so that a staff member is not busy. I believe that other students feel similarly. A quick and easy solution for this issue is to add all food options for the day to the kiosk (except for food items that students can grab for themselves, such as pizza).

Another issue that I see with the current system is that students pay after grabbing their food instead of paying before. This does not follow the current formats set out by Made-To-Order gas stations like Sheetz or Wawa. This seems inconvenient because students may want to buy a drink or something else and must wait for their other items instead of being able to buy and consume what they've bought while waiting for their food to be made.

A simple remedy for this is to have students pay before receiving their food.

Finally, there is an inconsistency in which

foods receive calorie counts and which do not. This is important since many students on campus are also athletes or are otherwise health conscious. Because of this, it may limit what foods students want to buy because they may be concerned about calories.

Also, when it comes to foods that students can have customized, such as subs or sandwiches, it does not calculate the total calories for a customized food item. The solution for this is to simply add calorie numbers for all food items and all the different options available.

Overall, I believe that a few corrections to the current system can make the online method of buying food at the Café Metro more convenient for students and, frankly, anyone eating at the Café Metro.

I also believe that these changes can make things more efficient for the staff, too. I hope management will take these recommendations seriously.

What do you think?

CLUB ADVERTISING

Does your organization want to promote its event or program in the newspaper?

The GA-ZETTE offers complimentary, no-cost display ads to any university sanctioned club or organization.

Space is limited! Contact the campus newspaper at ga-zette@PennStateOffice365.onmicrosoft.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The staff and management of **The GA-ZETTE** welcome letters to the editor by writing to rum31@psu.edu.

Please include your full name, PSU email, address, and phone number to verify.

Missing contact information will result in non-consideration of your article.



#OurHearts

February is American Heart Month

Love your heart. Learn more
about keeping it healthy.

Would you like to be part of this award-winning newspaper?

Are there any students in any major interested in being a news writer, reporter, or even a photographer?

If you are, please contact Professor Rosemary Martinelli at rum31@psu.edu to get more information about your involvement in *The GA-Zette*.

REGIONAL AWARDS:

Golden Quill Awards, the Press Club of
Western Pennsylvania
2020--Opinion/Columns
2021--Layout and Design
2022--Layout and Design

Golden Quill Awards--Finalists
2020--Opinion/Columns
2021--News (COVID-19 ongoing coverage)
2022--Sports Story

STATEWIDE AWARDS:

Pennsylvania News Media Association
2021--Second Place--Layout and Design
2021--Honorable Mention--Movie Review
2022--Diversity College Student Award

NATIONAL AWARDS:

American Scholastic Press Association
2022--First Place, Outstanding Collegiate
Newspaper

GREATER ALLEGHENY STUDENT AWARDS:
2022--Outstanding Student Organization

SPORTS & ATHLETICS



The Kansas City Chiefs hoist the Vince Lombardi trophy after their nail-biting victory against the Philadelphia Eagles on Feb. 12 (Photo credit: Matt Starkey)

Chiefs are Super Bowl LVII Champs, Winning 38 – 35 NFL Also Scores Another Memorable Halftime Show

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Whether one watches the Super Bowl for the spectacular commercials, the halftime show, or the game itself, it has been crowned as one of the most viewed sporting events in history. The latest bowl game played on Feb. 12, Super Bowl LVII, featured the two best teams in the NFL for the 2022-2023 season. The No. 1 ranked Philadelphia Eagles faced off against the No. 2 Kansas City Chiefs at State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

Entering the biggest

game of the year, both teams had remarkably similar stats. They each had a 16 – 3 record and a total of 546 points on the season. The question is, which team will come out on top to hoist the Vince Lombardi trophy?

As for the Apple Music Halftime Show, how will Rihanna showcase her musical talent after she has been away from her last solo performance for seven years?

The Chiefs last appeared in the Super Bowl back in 2020, just three years ago and are searching for their third Super Bowl ring. The Eagles, however, haven't been in the Super Bowl since

2018, when they beat the New England Patriots for their first-ever ring and are looking for their second.

In a high-scoring Super Bowl battle between the Eagles and the Chiefs, Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs came out on top as Super Bowl LVII champions, winning 38 – 35 in a nail-biting finish. After a critical holding penalty on the Eagles late in the 4th quarter, the Chiefs ran out most of the clock to kick a short field goal to earn their third Super Bowl ring.

To start the first quarter, the Eagles received the opening kickoff and quickly marched down the

field resulting in a touchdown. Jalen Hurts, Eagles quarterback, rushed for a 1-yard touchdown to open the game's scoring, 0 – 7. The Chiefs answered right back with a touchdown of their own. Patrick Mahomes, Chiefs quarterback, finds a wide-open Tight End, Travis Kelce, for an 18-yard touchdown pass to tie the game, 7 – 7.

Only seconds into the second quarter, Hurts lobs a perfect 45-yard pass to Eagles Wide Receiver, A.J. Brown, in the end zone to go up, 14 – 7. Later, Hurts fumbles the ball, which was recovered and returned for a

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 21)

36-touchdown by Nick Bolton, Chiefs linebacker, although the Eagles did not let that affect them.

Having two crucial fourth down conversions, Hurts was able to rush for his second touchdown of the game to retake their lead, 14 – 21. Jake Elliot, Eagles kicker,



successfully nails his 35-yard attempt to increase their lead, 24 – 14, heading into halftime.

The Chiefs received the ball first after halftime and capitalized with a quick touchdown to close their deficit to only three points. Isiah Pacheco, Chiefs running back, rushed for a 1-yard touchdown to make the score 21 – 24. The Eagles milked almost 8 minutes off the clock while marching down the field. However, they had to settle for a 33-yard field goal after the Chiefs defense stopped them in the RedZone.

After the Eagles field goal, Mahomes found a wide-open Kadarius Toney, Chiefs wide

receiver, for a 5-yard touchdown pass to take the lead for the first time of the game, 28 – 27. Minutes later, Toney had a spectacular punt return to put the Chiefs within the 10-yard line.

Again, Mahomes found Skyy Moore, Chiefs wide receiver and Pittsburgh native, wide-open for a 4-yard touchdown pass to increase their lead, 35 – 27. However, the Eagles answered back on their next drive. Hurts rushed 2-yards for his third touchdown of the game and successfully rushed in on their two-point conversion to tie the game, 35 – 35.

After running all but 8 seconds off the clock, Chiefs Kicker, Harrison Butker, nailed his 27-yard attempt, ultimately winning the game, 38 – 35.

“I just want to shout out my teammates,” Mahomes, who was also named Super Bowl MVP, exclaimed in a post-game

interview. “We challenged each other, and it took everybody to win this football game...we’re Super Bowl Champs, let’s go!”

A Super Bowl would not be complete without a halftime show from one of the greats, Rihanna. This year’s set featured many floating platforms on which dancers and Rihanna herself performed.

Rihanna opened the show by performing “B*** Better Have My Money,” shortly followed by “Where Have You Been” and “Only Girl (In The World).”

Then, fireworks were set off as she sang “We Found Love” and she later performed one of her most iconic Caribbean inspired songs, “Rude Boy,” followed by “Work.” During “Wild Thoughts,” she strutted down the runway, just how she did in the music video.



Pittsburgh native, Skyy Moore, celebrates after his touchdown in Super Bowl LVII (Photo credit: Matt Starkey)

After getting back on the floating platform, she performed “All of the Lights,” which was one of the two Kanye West songs she sang, the other being “Run This Town.” She concluded her show with two of her fan favorites, “Umbrella” and “Diamonds,” which created a memorable halftime show.

The NFL does not disappoint.



Rihanna performs during Super Bowl LVII’s Apple Music Halftime Show (Photo credit: Andrew Mather)

Pirates Celebrate 100 years in Bradenton Upon the arrival of Spring Training, Andrew McCutchen

BRADENTON, FL-- The Pittsburgh Pirates and the City of Bradenton will be recognizing “100 years of baseball in Bradenton” as the Pirates begin their 55th season of spring training at their southern home.

Following 10 days of workouts at Pirate City, the Pirates are scheduled to host the Toronto Blue Jays in the spring training opener at LECOM Park on Saturday, Feb. 25. In addition to the return of fan engagement at Pirate City, the Pirates will be expanding fan access at LECOM Park once exhibition games begin.

“We are proud to be a stable presence in this community for 55 years and have developed what truly is the model relationship between a community and team,” said Pirates Chairman Bob Nutting.

“During that time, together with the City of Bradenton and Manatee County, we have attracted a countless number of visitors and new residents to the area. We are thrilled to once again welcome fans back to Pirate City and LECOM Park to further express our appreciation for their support.”

“The relationship between the City of Bradenton and the Pirates



Pirates 2023 Spring Training games will be held at LECOM Park
(Photo courtesy: Bradenton Marauders Facebook Page)

is very special,” said Bradenton Mayor, Gene Brown. “The depth of that relationship is evident in the players who take the time to be a part of the community with our youth and the number of players who come back to live in the Bradenton area full time after their career. We’re so happy to have them here...as players, as retirees, as businessmen.”

In addition, Andrew McCutchen returns to the Pirates after playing an instrumental role in helping the team return to the playoffs for three straight seasons from 2013 to 2015.

During that three-year period, McCutchen emerged as one of the best players in all of Major League Baseball, both on and off the field, after taking home MVP honors in 2013. He was also presented with the prestigious Roberto Clemente Award in 2015.

“We are thrilled to be able to reunite with Andrew. His return just feels right. It is right for our team, for Andrew and his family, for our fans and for the game of baseball,” Nutting said. “Andrew is a special player and person. It is going to be exciting to again see

him take the field wearing 22 in the black and gold.

“Andrew means so much to the Pirates,” said Pirates General Manager Ben Cherington. “His past contribution to the Pirates and Pittsburgh speaks for itself. Most importantly for 2023, we believe Andrew’s on-field skill, work ethic, and experience are a great fit for our team.”

This story is derived from a press release taken from the Pittsburgh Pirates website: mlb.com/pirates.

LEARNING CENTER & ACE

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

T-SHIRT DECORATING EVENT



FEBRUARY 22ND - 12:15PM - 2:00PM

Location: Kelly Library Lower Level
Food will be provided