



Courtesy of Lintao Zhang of Getty Images
US and other countries impose diplomatic boycott
NEWS, pg. 3



Graphic Courtesy to Maggie Claytor
Feb. 1 - Missing golf cart
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Coach Concheck joins the Eagles

New Winthrop lacrosse coach is ready to lead team



Photo courtesy of Winthrop Athletic Communications



Photo courtesy of Winthrop Athletic Communications

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"Utilizing lacrosse as a platform for self-expression, character development, leadership skills for life are key components of the game I absolutely love. I value the uniqueness of each student-athlete, and it is so rewarding to watch their growth," said newly-hired Winthrop lacrosse coach Kara Concheck.

After a short period at the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), on Jan. 18, Concheck made what she described as the "easy decision" to come coach Winthrop's lacrosse team. "Winthrop lacrosse has an immense amount of grit and passion for not only the game but each other. I enjoy coaching at a high level and building a culture of excellence

on and off the field," Concheck said. "It is clear the athletics department at Winthrop is continuing to build in a positive direction that values the student-athlete experience." This will be Concheck's fifth collegiate coaching position, in addition to her time coaching at various clubs and clinics over the years. Before joining SCAD's program, Concheck spent two

seasons from 2019-2021 coaching at her alma mater, Fresno State. "As a collegiate coach, relocating comes with the profession. This has given me valuable perspectives on how I'd like to continue to develop within my craft, promote the growth of the game, while developing each team I have been a part of," Concheck said. While in California, she led the Bulldogs to eight individual, program, and Mountain

Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF) broken records, all while the team maintained a cumulative team GPA of 3.62. As a high school student, Concheck earned multiple offers to play for Division I schools, but her academics prevented her from accepting those offers. "I use my experiences as teaching moments, to encourage young student-athletes the importance of focusing on their academics," Concheck said.

After finding a "wonderful home" at Fresno State as a student-athlete, Concheck was determined to flip her academic tendencies around. "I became a Dean's List student and had wonderful resources that continued to encourage and challenge me. On the playing field, I was able to utilize my athleticism and toughness while becoming more dynamic in my position. I am grateful for my experiences at Fresno State," Concheck said. ...

see COACH pg. 4

Jim Reno, councilmember of Ward 6, to serve sixth term

If Reno completes this term, he will have served Ward 6 for 28 years

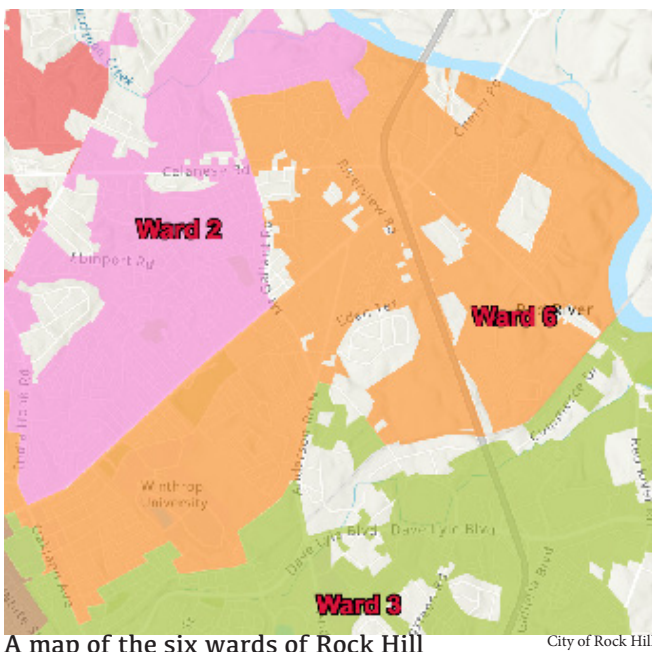
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More times than not, the distance between government officials and the people they serve is thought to be too large. This causes the people to question if their government actually has their best interests at heart. For someone who lives in the same community they serve, their best interests and their community's best interests are the same. Jim Reno's government job is contingent upon not only his experience and his willingness to serve the community but his home address as well. As a Ward 6 councilmember, Reno lives within his ward, and his address is easily accessible to other citizens living within his ward. "Ward 6, in Rock Hill, goes along the Winthrop campus. It takes in a few of the nearby neighborhoods and runs basically past the Winthrop Coliseum and all the way out to the Riverwalk development and along Cherry Road as well," Reno said. "Then it kind of hooks over across Celanese Road and gets some of the neighborhoods and apartments near 77 all the way back to Mt. Gallant Road. And there's also a neighborhood be-

hind Oakland Baptist Church, so it kind of runs in that direction as well." The city of Rock Hill has six wards. The Rock Hill City Council is made up of the mayor, John Gettys, and the six ward council members, one of which is Reno. "The officials of the City of Rock Hill are elected by the citizens of Rock Hill," according to cityofrockhill.com. "The Mayor is elected at-large for a four-year term. Six Council members are elected by wards and serve four-year staggered terms." According to Reno, all six wards of a city have similar populations, but the number of registered voters and other voter characteristics will be different in each ward. A councilperson makes decisions for the entire city through the majority vote of the council. The councilperson works on issues for the residents of their ward as they reach out and seek assistance.

Reno, a Rock Hill native, is an active member of the community, not only because of his role as councilmember of Ward 6, but also because of multiple other titles he holds around South Carolina, including vice president and business banker at First Citizens Bank. "I serve on the Rock Hill Economic Development Corporation and also on our local or regional transportation planning group. It's called Rock Hill-Fort Mill Area Transportation Study Committee," Reno said. He is also a deacon at Westminster Presbyterian Church. "He is a thoughtful..."

see RENO pg. 3



A map of the six wards of Rock Hill
City of Rock Hill

Presidential finalists introduced to Winthrop community



Edward Serna
- President of University of Maine Farmington
- Doctorate of Education from University of Alabama
- Master of Science from Auburn University
- Master of Science from Clemson University
- Bachelor of Science from Winthrop



Martin Roth
- President of University of Charleston in West Virginia
- Ph.D. from University of Pittsburgh
- MBA from University of Pittsburgh
- Bachelor's degree from University of Pittsburgh



Neal Weaver
- President of Georgia Southwestern State University
- Ph.D. from University of Oklahoma
- MBA from Southeastern Oklahoma State University
- Bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Panhandle State University

Presidential Search Committee announced Friday, Feb. 4, that they narrowed down their search to three finalists
see pages 1 and 2 for more information on the PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Neal Weaver: presidential candidate



Courtesy of Winthrop University

Neal Weaver speaks in front of faculty, staff, students and alumni on Feb. 10

Weaver, current president of Georgia Southwestern State University, visits Winthrop in attempt to win presidency

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Neal Weaver made his public debut as a presidential candidate for Winthrop University on Thursday in Dina's Place with his wife Kristi Weaver by his side.

When answering the question "Why Winthrop?," Weaver tells the story of his grandfather, who became the first person in his family to get a college degree. He credits his grandfather for where he is today, and now he wants to be able to help students in similar situations get their education.

"There are still 40-some percent of your freshmen that will become the first of their family to graduate. They're going to be my grandfather. Think of what happens to their family three generations from now," Weaver said. "So why Winthrop? Because we change lives."

Weaver also considers himself and his wife to have an extremely close relationship with students at their institution.

"You describe yourself [Winthrop University] as a family," Weaver said. "That's the kind of campus I want to be a part of. I don't want to work at an institution that has 20,000 students. I don't want to work at an institution where I don't know who the students are. I don't want to live in a community where I can go to a restaurant and be anonymous."

Weaver even invites students, faculty and staff into his home and hosts events for them.

"I like for people to know who I am. I like to know who the students are. Kristi and I have a relationship with the students, and the faculty, and the staff,"

Weaver said. "We have them over to our house, we have events in our home, we think of it as a family, and we want to be a part of an institution who believes that's what they are, and so that's why Winthrop makes sense to me."

When answering the question "Why me?," Weaver took a moment to talk about Winthrop University's potential and why he is the right fit for the presidency.

"I am a strategic, competitive arranger that maximizes the people that I work with," Weaver said. "One thing that I've learned along the way is that, as I grow in my responsibility, as I have more responsibility for a larger organization, it's not about me only anymore. I can't do it by myself. I have to bring everyone along with me. We have to work together, and I have to invest in you so you can reach your full potential."

"My job is to make all of us better. We want to think that we're better, we want to be better, and we want to achieve more, and that is my role here."

"So why me? Because I think you have more potential than what you're currently doing, and I want to work with you to bring it out."

Weaver has been the 11th president of Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus, Georgia, for the last five years. His biography lists some of his successes at the university, including "the highest enrollment in university history, five new academic programs, an academic master plan, five completed or active construction projects, improving retention and graduation rates, and a growing commitment to student success and engagement."

Edward Serna: Winthrop alum and presidential candidate

Serna, current president of University of Maine at Farmington, visits Winthrop in attempt to win presidency

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Winthrop presidential candidate and alum Edward Serna visited campus last week to interact with community members for the first time and speak about why he chose to submit an application to work at Winthrop University. Serna noted that

Winthrop is the only institution for which he applied to work.

"For a decade, I had cycled in and out of higher education. I never felt like I belonged. ... At the time, I knew I needed to make a drastic change in my life, and I needed to find a campus where that could happen," Serna

said.

Serna said that while researching colleges, he encountered the New Start program at Winthrop, a program aimed at helping students ranging from in their mid-20s to 80s by providing information and assistance to best take advantage of educational opportunities.

"It was a huge, huge decision. And what I found on campus was a commitment and a promise kept. I found a vibrant, diverse campus," Serna said. "I got to be in a classroom with engaging faculty. I felt supported and that sense of belonging that I had never felt before."

see [SERNA](#) pg. 3

Martin Roth: presidential candidate

Roth, current president of the University of Charleston in West Virginia, visits Winthrop in attempt to win presidency

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Martin Roth's business background and focus on revenue may inspire those who are worried about Winthrop's shrinking budget. However, it has made some students feel he only values them for their tuition.

Roth is currently the president of the University of Charleston in West Virginia, where he has served since 2018 and holds a contract until 2025. Previously, he was dean of the Barney School of Business at the University of Hartford, and for 16 years, he was a professor of international business at the University of South Carolina.

"Working with a college community to provide inspirational and strategic direction is one of my strong suits. I have an extensive track record of cultivating innovation, including the design and development of degrees, certificates, partnerships, student services, and community engagements," Roth said in his application to the position of president.

He told gathered students at the meet-and-greet that he likes to attend university events, meet with student government and eat in the dining hall at his current university and plans to do the same at Winthrop. He also teaches two classes, one online and one in-person, at his current institution.

At the University of Charleston, Roth has implemented professional development events to identify bias and increase equity, which are required for faculty to complete. He said it was hard for his university to hire diverse faculty and staff due to their location, so he needed to implement these programs to help the students at the university feel safe and understood.

According to Roth, despite Winthrop having "a stronger regional and national reputation, a more robust program portfolio and a location with more favorable demographic and economic conditions" than the University of Charleston, Winthrop still has several issues.

Winthrop needs to focus on creating a new mission statement, Roth said. By having a "common message," Winthrop can better stand out in a competitive higher-education market.

Another way Winthrop can stand out in the market, according to Roth, is by having new in-demand programs, such as nursing. Despite the up-front costs like hiring staff and investing in technology, Roth said he believes it would generate needed income for the university.

"We've hit some speed bumps with regard to COVID. We've hit some speed bumps with regard to how we've been able



Courtesy of Winthrop University

Martin Roth speaks in front of faculty, staff, students and alumni on Feb. 9

to attract students. But those are fixable problems. And there's exciting opportunities with regard to new programs, new events, and we can figure out how to navigate this terrain and put ourselves on a path for growth, with some good strategic thinking, that brings us all together around a common vision," Roth said.

Roth said he is more focused on the creation of new opportunities for students to come to Winthrop than he is focused on fixing Winthrop's existing problems. When asked which he would prioritize, he said that if Winthrop had the resources to fix its problems, it would have already.

Some students feel he focuses too much on finances and not enough on students' lives.

"He seemed like he would make the board [of trustees] lots of money, but he didn't seem to care about students as much as the other candidates," said Toluwayan Agbeyomi, a sophomore business major.

Roth spoke of students as having value only because of the money they bring to the university when he answered a question by Brett Best, assistant track and field coach, about funding for Winthrop's athletic program, which Best said has "one of the worst-funded Division One NCAA athletic programs in the country."

"So look at our institution, we have about 12,000 full-time undergraduate students, but half of them are student-athletes. You

know, they're great kids. We love having them. ... But they're also expecting an additional athletic scholarship. ... Believe me, if we could replace some of those student-athletes with nonathletes and make more money, we would. But the reality is, we have to fill our dorms. We have to sell meal plans," Roth said.

Roth also referred to alumni's opinions having more weight if they were donors. At a previous institution, the basketball team made it into the NCAA tournament for the first time, but the marketing at the university did not publicize it, and the university transitioned the program from Division One to Division Three.

"You look on social media, and there were a lot of very unhappy alumni. Now, I don't know if those alumni were actively engaged. I don't know if those alumni were big donors. It may be that some of the biggest donors are like, 'Finally, you guys made the right decision,'" Roth said. "I don't know. But we really have to be pretty thoughtful."

If he becomes the next president of Winthrop, Roth said he expects to stay for around ten years, then retire, if he can improve the university in the way he wants in that time.

He gave the Charleston Gazette a very similar statement in 2018 when he arrived at the University of Charleston.

"I hope this is my last job," Roth told the Gazette.

cont. **RENO** from pg. 1

... Christian and a faithful person in terms of leadership and responsibility,” said the Rev. Mike Honeycutt of Westminster Presbyterian Church. “I just think that he’s a man of integrity. I deeply respect and admire him. ... He’s just a great person, and he and his wife, Melissa, have raised great children.”

Reno’s family members are also native Carolinians who still live and work in the Carolinas.

“I am married with three children,” Reno said. “27, 25 and 19. My oldest two are daughters, and they were basically two and six months old when I first ran for office, and my son was not born at the time, so they have known my service to the city for basically their entire lives.”

In his spare time, Reno likes to exercise and walk around downtown Rock Hill.

“I also love different

we took some criticism, but we had a goal, and are now so very proud now to see the vibrancy of downtown and the growth we went through,” Reno said. “We’re continuing to have more opportunities. ... We have Food Truck Fridays [for example], and we’re at a point where we’re having more things offered to our citizens.”

Because Winthrop University’s campus is within Ward 6, the work that Reno does as Ward 6 councilmember impacts Winthrop students.

“One of our goals was to make sure we’re attracting the talent out of Winthrop, out of York Tech, and out of Clinton College, so students stay here once they graduate. It’s not just about the job. It’s about the things we can provide in the area. So, that’s one thing I’m very proud of,” Reno said. “In the past, when Dr. DiGiorgio was the president, he and



Reno

Photo courtesy of Jim Reno

kinds of sports like college football, college basketball, and typically, my interest is either in the University of Tennessee or Clemson,” Reno said. “I am a season ticket holder [for Winthrop basketball], and when I was at the thing for one of the presidential candidates the other night, I went over after and caught the second half.”

Reno’s proudest accomplishment from his 24 years he has served as councilmember so far has a lot to do with the growth of downtown Rock Hill.

“The downtown area used to be two steps backwards and one forward. We made some tough decisions, and

I would meet annually, and he would share his vision and how he saw the city being able to partner, and so, I’ve always considered Winthrop a key element in the city’s success. A successful university in a successful city. I’m hopeful when the new president comes on board that we’ll start that relationship back.”

Reno has a desire to improve Rock Hill transportation and make the city more walkable for those without cars, especially Winthrop students.

“I enjoy how much Rock Hill has grown,” Reno said.

with COVID, we’ve all learned to be resilient. We’ve all learned, back in Arkansas, what we called ‘grit.’ Those traits have tremendous value.”

Serna is currently serving as the 15th president of the University of Maine at Farmington, where he has worked since 2019.

He described himself as an “introvert” at his public presentation, and his application for the Winthrop presidential position describes him as a “transparent and collaborative leader with a commitment

US and other countries impose diplomatic boycott on China

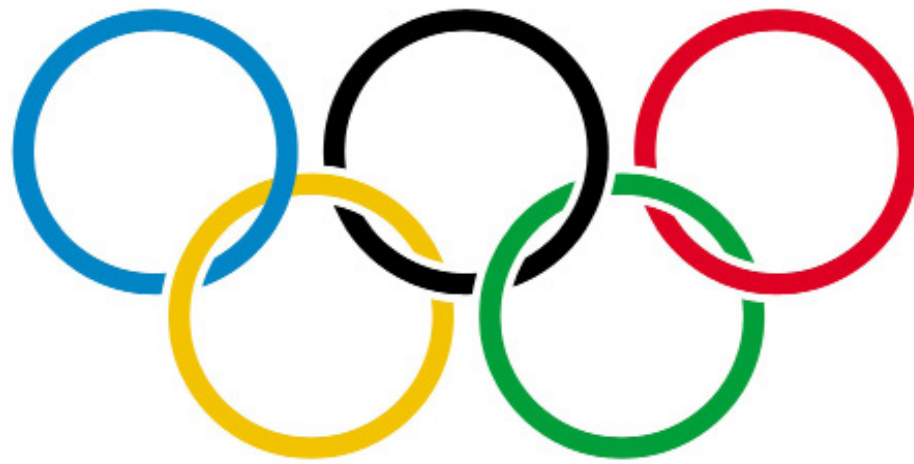


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Logo for all Winter and Summer Olympic Games

US among countries imposing diplomatic boycott of the 2022 Winter Olympics

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Amid the backdrop of the 2022 Winter Olympics, which this year are being held in Beijing, China, several North American and European countries are having a diplomatic boycott of the Olympics.

This boycott is taking place due to the human rights violations by the Chinese government. China has created several concentration camps where the Uyghur Muslims are being held in appalling conditions.

A diplomatic boycott does not mean that the U.S. is not participating in the Olympics; instead, it means that “we don’t send the president, first lady, secretary of state or anyone to represent us at that high of a level,” said Eddie Lee, professor of history at Winthrop University.

Sports teams are still competing at the Olympics, but there will be no government representation from major countries, including the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, Sweden, the Netherlands and Denmark.

Leaders or ministers of sport typically serve as leaders of their countries’ delegations during the Olympics. For example, First

Lady Jill Biden served as leader of the U.S. delegation during the Tokyo Olympics last summer.

This isn’t the first time the United States has boycotted the Olympics.

“In 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. And President Carter expressed his outrage and said that we needed to boycott the 1980 Summer Olympics, which were being held in Moscow. Eventually, 65 nations agreed with us, but we led the way,” Lee said.

The Olympics have a history of being politicized, though.

“The Olympics have been, from the beginning, inherently political. For example, the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 showcased a democratized and rehabilitated Japan following World War II,” said Andy Doyle, professor of history at Winthrop University.

Politicalization also occurred during the 1972 Olympics, which were held in Munich, Germany, in order to reward and present a democratized, fully-recovered Germany after World War II.

This boycott is not expected to improve U.S. and China relations.

“The Chinese are definitely mad about this snub, and it will increase the already

bad relations with China. The Chinese always want recognition of status, especially under Xi, so this stings. It may make no difference, sadly, in improving human rights there, especially the Uyghurs,” said Dr. Christopher Van Aller, professor emeritus of political science at Winthrop University.

This boycott, in effect, has very little impact.

“In practical terms, this means zero,” Doyle said.

Van Aller dove deeper into this explanation.

“Boycotts large or small however have relatively little impact on authoritarian countries and can make their leaders look stronger to their people, such as Castro.”

This boycott will do little to help the Uyghurs and other ethnic Muslims who are currently being sterilized and forced into concentration camps by the Chinese government.

“If Western citizens really cared about human rights, they would buy far fewer Chinese products,” Van Aller said. “Government action would be unnecessary.”

“When I was a kid in the 1960s, virtually no trade occurred between the West and communist countries. We also had a much healthier industrial base.”

Police Blotter



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On Feb. 1, the Reporting Officer (R/O) met with a complainant regarding a golf cart that had been missing since the prior Saturday. The complainant stated that an orange and white Club Car Precedent golf cart with the number two on the side was last seen around noon on Jan. 29.

The complainant stated that she was unsure who the last person to utilize the vehicle was but provided the R/O with a list of managers who possess the keys.

The complainant was unable to produce a VIN — the car’s serial number — or any paperwork listing the specific golf cart. They determined that the vehicle was worth approximately \$8,000 by comparing it to similar models listed online.

Upon leaving the scene, the R/O searched the Winthrop campus and coliseum area for the vehicle with no success. The R/O then searched through surveillance footage but was unable to locate anything pertaining to the vehicle.

On Feb. 4, the R/O responded to the Cherry Rd. parking lot to investigate a possible burglary of a vehicle that was seen on surveillance cameras in the area. The vehicle in question was unlocked and appeared to have been burglarized.

Communications contacted the vehicle’s owner in order to check it. The victim then met the R/O and examined the car for any missing or damaged items. The victim stated that nothing was missing, including the large amounts of cash located in her work apron in the front seat. However, many items had been moved, and compartments appeared to have been tampered with.

The R/O searched for other burglarized vehicles in the lot. Units located three additional vehicles, the owners of which were all contacted and met with to examine their vehicles.

Each victim stated that nothing was taken, despite leaving cash and valuable items in plain view. After determining that no further vehicles had been burglarized in that parking area, all units cleared.

cont. **SERNA** from pg. 2

After graduating and receiving a bachelor of science in business administration from Winthrop, Serna went on to receive a master’s in management information systems from Auburn University as well as a master of science in industrial management from Clemson University. He then received a doctorate of education in higher education from the University of Alabama.

“I think I’ve learned a lot along the journey,” Serna said. “Especially in the last few years



Courtesy of Winthrop University

Edward Serna speaks in front of faculty, staff, students and alumni on Feb. 7 to shared governance.”

Serna, during his undergraduate time at Winthrop, was a non-traditional student and he called his time as a Winthrop student

“life changing” in his presidential application.

“In closing, I want to again express my sincere gratitude for Winthrop University,”

Serna said. “My time on campus changed the trajectory of my life and eventually led to my calling of providing generations of students with the same supportive, life-changing experience I had in Rock Hill.

“As an alumnus who cares deeply for this special place, I sincerely want you to pick the right leader to guide Winthrop to even greater success.”

“While I believe I am that leader, I will warmly welcome and support the university’s selection.”

Winthrop adds digital sports production concentration to mass communication degrees

Professors hope the new concentration will bring new students to the field while providing new opportunities to current students

SPENCER HORTON
staff writer

Winthrop added the digital sports production concentration to mass communication degrees in the spring 2021 semester, and members of the mass communication department and the athletics department are excited about the new opportunities this will bring to students.

“I hope we can open their eyes to all of the possibilities that exist in athletics,” said assistant athletic director for communications Brett Redden. “Whether that is social media, promotions or different roles with the ESPN+ broadcasts.

“We are providing an opportunity to be engaging during athletic events or just in athletics in general. I think the ultimate goal is to make sure we give the students a chance to see some of the opportunities that exist in athletics, give them the experience, and hopefully they have fun in the process.”

Senior instructor of mass communication Mark Nortz said the sports production concentration offers a skill set that can also benefit students in areas outside of sports.

“Having this concentration allows the mass communication department to offer current and potential students one more career option,” Nortz said. “The skills that the students come away with are not only applicable to sports production but

to other live events: concerts, conventions, parades, award shows, town hall meetings, etc.”

The mass communication department had already been working with the athletics department before the concentration was added, helping with streaming games and promoting teams and athletes.

Students were sent to help and got practical credits for doing so, but, eventually, the

department decided to make the relationship with athletics more formal and create courses devoted to sports production.

“With technology getting smaller, it is now much easier to produce events in the field instead of a studio,” Nortz said. “The live-streaming of sporting events is a great way for someone to learn what it takes to set up and work an event that can be watched on a computer or cell phone.”

“Teaming up with the mass communication department is a great partnership for both sides,” Redden said. “I think utilizing what opportunities there are for students to be involved in athletics where social media, promotions and broadcasting are involved can be key to the growth of the students.

“The willingness for the department to work with athletics and make us part of the curriculum is exciting.

And as the partnership grows, we can continue working together on improving and giving the students the best experience possible.”

Classes that are currently available include: Intro to Sports Production, Live Production I and II, Social Media and Promotion, Digital Sports Producing, and Digital Sports Directing. Department chair and professor of mass communication Guy Reel is looking forward to the concentration’s

future. “I hope it’ll attract new students who might not have seen a program like this anywhere else,” Reel said. “When I researched it, I didn’t find any.

“Also, we’re working with the Big South Conference to try and have them implement similar programs to help their athletics departments, and we would provide the initial online materials to set up their own programs.”



Matthew Shealy/The Johnsonian

Students in the Social Media and Promotion class have a courtside view at basketball games as they update Twitter and Instagram accounts for the team in action

cont. COACH from pg. 1

After four years, Concheck graduated with a degree in outdoor recreation and natural resource management and left the field as the all-time leading scorer with All-MPSF academic and athletic team honors. She had also earned Fresno State’s Offensive Player of the Year

back in 2014. Now, with years of experience as both an athlete and a coach, Concheck said she is bringing her “authenticity and transformational leadership initiatives” to the Winthrop field.

“I encourage and embody vulnerability, self-growth, and joy. Each team I have had the privilege to coach knows I would run

through a brick wall for them,” Concheck said.

Concheck strives to build trust among the team and “create opportunities on the field which highlight each player’s strengths.”

Both Concheck and her husband are Ohio natives, so when she isn’t coaching, they enjoy visiting family and seeking adventure in the outdoors with their three dogs: Montana, Ruby and Clifford.

Concheck is also an active CrossFit athlete, competing year-round with “an awesome community in a high-energy, inclusive, and competitive environment.”

“It is so important for a coach to have passion and selflessness. When passion is genuine, and a coach truly puts the

team first, there is a stronger buy-in. There is no limit to how far we can go with our passion, while serving others,” Concheck said.

Upon completing the 2021 season, the Eagles were 3-3 in the Big South (placing them fourth in the conference) and 7-8 overall. With the 2022 season mere days away, Concheck and the team feel “reenergized and united.”

“Our main goals are to take the season one day at a time and to focus on each task at hand. While we focus on what we can control and each game plan, we will ultimately continue to progress in a positive direction. We are striving for a Big South Championship,”

Concheck said.

The season opener will take place at 5 p.m. at East Carolina on Friday, Feb. 18. The Eagles

will compete against Youngstown State for their first home game on Tuesday, March 8 at noon.



Photo courtesy of Winthrop Athletic Communications

Concheck coached for her alma mater, Fresno State



Photo courtesy of Winthrop Athletic Communications

Concheck is the third head coach for the women’s lacrosse team in school history

Winthrop finds a way... again



Matthew Shealy/The Johnsonian

Fans waved rally towels as Winthrop indeed rallied in the second half to hold off Presbyterian and remain undefeated at home this season

Eagles show no grace to Presbyterian in latest conference victory

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With a 65-61 victory over Presbyterian College on Saturday, Winthrop is now 10-2 in Big South play and riding a six-game win streak.

"We always find a way to push through," said redshirt junior Cory Hightower.

Hightower, who played his first two collegiate seasons at Presbyterian before transferring to Western Carolina and now Winthrop, finished Saturday's contest with 17 points, shooting 7-of-11 from the field.

After one of the early shots Hightower drained, he put his finger to his lips. He mostly denied it being direc-

ted toward his former team.

"I know last game I got that tech, and then Coach has been emphasizing me keeping my mouth shut, so I just put it over my mouth," Hightower said. "I'm done talking. Can't get [any] more techs."

Hightower's 17 points were tied for a team-high with DJ Burns, who scored 13 of his points in the second half.

"We have so many players on our team. I can start the game off, DJ pick it up, and then another person, you know?" Hightower said.

While Hightower and Burns combined to shoot 15-of-23 from the floor, the rest of Winthrop's roster

finished 8-of-22. The team shot 3-of-16 from three-point range.

"I'm very encouraged because we won these last two games when we shot it poorly, and I think good shooters — and we have a bunch of them that live in the gym and work at it — when they don't make some, I think it just means sort of the floodgates are going to open here pretty soon," said head coach Mark Prosser.

The Eagles are currently down to nine scholarship players with the loss of Jamal King, who left the program prior to Saturday's game.

"He and his family made the decision that it was best for him to

leave," Prosser told media members following Saturday's win.

"He's a wonderful kid. We love Jamal. Anytime you lose good people, it sucks. And especially somebody that's a great kid that's friends with everybody in your locker room, and we had great relationships."

King appeared in just 10 games for the Eagles this season, averaging only 2.5 points per game. He made significant contributions during two recent Winthrop victories, though, recording seven points in 12 minutes against North Carolina A&T State on Feb. 3, along with six points and five rebounds in 21 minutes

versus Hampton on Feb. 5, while others on Winthrop's roster dealt with injuries.

"At the end of the day, when it comes to student-athletes — families — doing what's best for them, timing doesn't matter," Prosser said. "We support him. I think we miss the person more than anything else."

Redshirt sophomore Josh Corbin is still away from the team for personal reasons according to Prosser, though unlike King, Corbin remains on the roster and may return to play this season. Corbin's return would give the Eagles a tenth scholarship player.

"It's a challenge, it's a little different, but

we feel good about the guys in the locker room that want to be there, and I think we're talented enough to keep competing," Prosser said.

Prosser joked that even with only nine guys on scholarship active right now, his biggest concern about depth is getting those guys more minutes.

"It's a tough-minded, hate-to-lose group. They're talented, so don't feel sorry for us," Prosser said.

Winthrop travels to Gardner-Webb on Wednesday, UNC Asheville on Saturday, then finishes the regular season with home games versus USC Upstate on Feb. 24 and Charleston Southern on Feb. 26.

Eagle of the Week: D'Essence Burnett

SAM HYATT
staff writer

D'Essence Burnett, a junior biology major and Spanish minor, remains busy as she competes in both soccer as a forward or striker and track and field as a long sprinter at Winthrop.

"I will say, doing two sports is not very easy, but it is doable," Burnett said. "It is a way to keep yourself busy and in shape, but in doing so, I have to stay aligned with the schedule I have at the beginning of every week so that I don't feel too flustered. It can also be difficult with the very different environments and coaching styles."

Burnett comes from a family of athletes. Her parents played basketball in college, and her younger brother has followed in their footsteps in playing basketball. However, when attempting to play basketball at a young age, Burnett found that she did not have that talent.

"Because of that, I wanted to be a part of something that my family was not, and that is when I became fascinated with soccer," Burnett said. "There is no better feeling than seeing the ball in the

back of the net and boosting your team's energy to try and do it all over again."

While playing soccer during her years in elementary school, she was invited by a track coach to come to a practice because they thought she was good.

"That is when I was first introduced to track. After that, I stayed consistent with soccer and did track whenever I had free gaps in my schedule," Burnett said.

"I think my favorite thing about track is the atmosphere. It is a great feeling when you are competing, and you hear your teammates cheering and rooting for you no matter what," she said.

Burnett said that the transition from competing in high school to the college level was difficult.

"For soccer, it took me a couple weeks to adjust to competing at the college level. But for track, I will say I am still adjusting," Burnett said. "It is hard to try to compete with other athletes who have pretty much devoted their whole lives to track when you are someone who just does it in

alternating season."

When training in the offseason, Burnett said she focuses on taking care of and paying more attention to her body.

"If I have lingering injuries, I try to get them taken care of before returning to competition. I also pick up the intensity in working out as I am getting ready to return to college competing," Burnett said.

Burnett competed in the 200- and 400-meter races at the Marshall Invitational this past weekend. Prior to the meet, she said she hoped to run faster than she did the week before and gain a new PR.

"This season in track, I hope to make it to Conference for both indoor and outdoor season," Burnett said. "I'm looking forward to meeting my goals individually as well as team goals and to make more memories with my teammates."

The women's soccer team finished its season in October, while track and field started its season in December. Winthrop will be hosting the Winthrop/Adidas Invitational from March 24-26.



Photo courtesy of TP Media

Burnett played in 10 games for the soccer team this past fall, scoring one goal

Behind the scenes insight to the play 'Pipeline'

Student director at Winthrop speaks about her experience

JADA STRONG
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of Alyssa Eileen Laughlan



Winthrop had its opening night for the play "Pipeline," written by Dominique Morisseau, on Feb. 9. The play was directed by Kalaylah Chisolm, a senior theatre performance major. This is Chisolm's second time directing a project here at Winthrop.

Chisolm was a part of the student workspace program where Winthrop puts on three to four theater pieces a semester. "Pipeline" was the play that stuck out for her.

"I started my proposal process, I guess you could say in 2019, which is wild, because I knew I wanted to propose a piece, but I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I was taking Directing 1 at the time. And I was talking about, 'I want to propose something.' So I was given a list of plays,

and 'Pipeline' was one of them," Chisolm said.

"And that consisted of me talking about my vision for the play. Any type of challenges that may be why I wanted to direct it, I wanted to bring it to Winthrop. The set was that like, there's a whole packet of stuff I had to present."

Chisolm knew she wanted to direct a play that inspired others to have conversations with students who are studying to teach and what expectations they should have.

"I knew I wanted to direct something that sparked conversation and change. Because I feel that for someone who's going to be an educator, that Winthrop doesn't give us enough of the realistic world of education before we go out there," Chisolm said. "So,

'Pipeline' definitely does that, in my mind. It tells you what we are to expect in the classroom and how we will be teaching students who don't get all the resources that every other student in the world will get."

Daniel Gordon, the chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance, has had the pleasure of seeing Chisolm bring her own vision of this adaptation to life.

"Her proposal was excellent. It met a lot of

the needs of the department, meaning serving students, being able to cast it well, being able to tell a story that's important to us. And the quality of her proposal was just so high that it was a no-brainer to do this," Gordon said.

"So, we're happy to award her this opportunity, really, because it's above and beyond the normal curriculum.

"This isn't something that we simply allow any student to do. It certainly is for advanced students who've proven that they have the capability to do this well and for us to embrace it as part of our season."

This play is Chisolm's second time directing, but this is the first time she's been given all of the responsibility of being a director.

"The first time I directed was in the class; I had a little more guid-

ance," Chisolm said. "It was very scary this time because I didn't have that much guidance. I did have my advisors and their guidance, but it wasn't like in a class.

"This time it was a 'you're on your own' checkpoint. So, it was very nerve-wracking in that aspect because I'm in charge now."

"It was exciting to do that, and I think comfortability for telling the story and directing and having a vision I felt absolutely just passionate and ready for because it's something that means so much to me.

"So yeah, I'd have to say it's been a great journey, for sure, from the first one I directed to now. It's just, it continues to show me how much I love directing and how much I love doing this."



Photo courtesy of Alyssa Eileen Laughlan

Winthrop music and dance departments celebrate Black composers

"Celebrating Black Composers," featuring Winthrop string and dance students

MARI PRESSLEY
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In light of Black History Month, the Winthrop music and dance departments will feature both string and dance students in a performance that is one of many in collaboration with the Charlotte Strings Collective.

"The [Charlotte Strings Collective] is

a community string group composed of students, faculty, and alumni from UNC Charlotte and Winthrop University; students and alumni from Northwest School of the Arts; members of the Charlotte and Union Symphonies; area freelancers; and Charlotte-area public school music teachers."

according to coa.charlotte.edu.

Performing virtually for the first time in 2020 to "affirm that Black Lives Matter," the Charlotte Strings Collective has collaborated with the Charlotte Symphony and Winthrop University to celebrate the music of Black composers through performance

and education.

In addition to featuring string music by living artists, the Charlotte Strings Collective highlights works by historical composers whose talents were not properly recognized and honored due to racism.

Professor of violin at Winthrop, Kari Giles, is the coordinator of

the "Celebrating Black Composers" event.

"I believe that it is past time to celebrate the artistry of Black composers," Giles said. "This music is rich and beautiful, with each composer offering their own unique and valuable musical voice.

"These works deserve to be a part of the Western Classical canon that are played daily in concert halls around the world."

The concert, joined by dancers from The Wanda Project, "a ballet-based contemporary dance company," according to Winthrop.edu, founded by associate dean and director of graduate studies, will highlight several Winthrop seniors.

Trinity Howell, music performance major, will be the viola soloist for Florence Price's

"Adoration," and Madison Bush, music performance major, has composed a work especially for this concert called "Columns."

Semira Daniels and Donovan Granville will be dancing in a special work honoring Breonna Taylor.

"For the students performing and in the audience, I hope they will feel empowered," Giles said. "I want them to realize that they BELONG on that stage, and that the world is a more beautiful place because of their art.

"For the entire audience, I hope they come away inspired to have heard music they may have never heard before, and perhaps be excited enough to go explore and discover more new music."

Where do the materials in our technology come from?

The mining of minerals in iPhones causes harmful environmental impacts

SAM HYATT
Staff Writer

In the last 20 years, technology has skyrocketed and invaded the lives of hundreds of millions of people around the world.

We use these devices every day, but do most people know where the materials to make the devices are found and how they are collected?

Every day people are scrolling through social media on their iPhone and Android devices, typing vigorously on their laptops and listening to hours of music on their AirPods.

Many people, especially college students, use their devices for hours upon hours each

day in order to complete their classwork.

However, they may not know how their devices were produced.

Julia Breikreutz, a senior English major, said she used her iPhone, MacBook, desktop, AirPods and FitBit daily.

“To be quite honest, I do not know where they are made, but I assume they are made in China. As to what they are made out of, I would say plastic or metal,” Breikreutz said.

Catherine Windham, a sophomore double majoring in psychology and religion, said she uses the treadmill at the gym often alongside using her phone and laptop.

“I do not know anything about what they’re made of or where those materials come from,” Windham said.

According to an article by Ananya Pal on ArcGIS, there are various materials found and used in the creation of the device.

The top five materials used are aluminum, iron, lithium, gold and copper, but there are 46 elements altogether.

Aluminum is one of the elements in iPhones that is non-renewable. This means that it cannot be naturally replaced or replenished, the same as iron.

Both aluminum and iron are commonly found in Australia, Bra-



Courtesy of Pixabay

Mining sites cause various negative environmental impacts



Courtesy of Pixabay

Every day technology is produced by various non-renewable resources

zil and India.

The gold used in iPhones is found in several states in the United States, including Nevada, Alaska, California, South Dakota and Colorado.

The gold that is being mined currently is non-renewable. Once these resources are

used, there will be no more on Earth.

A few negative impacts of mining gold include soil erosion, the formation of sinkholes and loss of biodiversity.

Lithium is mined in Chile. This mineral is found in underground reservoirs of saltwater.

Water pollution is a negative side effect of the mining process.

Additionally, Chile is the world’s leading country in mining copper.

The mining of copper causes significant and sometimes permanent ecological impacts. Sur-

face and groundwater, as well as land covers, are constantly being affected.

According to Business Insider, Apple claimed in 2018 that it will “seek to stop using mined rare earth elements to make phones, and instead use only recycled materials.”

“I think it would be good to know where and how the materials are collected, but I do not think it will stop someone from using the devices,” said Brad Tinsley, a senior business administration major.

Musical movies 2022

After some failures in 2021 with musicals like “Dear Evan Hansen,” 2022 is looking to be one of the best years yet in terms of musical movies

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2021 was an interesting year when it came to movies. Even though some movies like the hit “In the Heights” rose to prominence, others, such as the “Dear Evan Hansen” film, failed in adaptation. In spite of that, however, the musicals being released in 2022 look like they are going to be even more of a success.

“Marry Me” is a new musical romantic comedy based around a webcomic by Bobby Crosby. The film stars Jennifer Lopez as Katalina Valdez, who is about to get married to her fiancé on stage before hundreds of thousands of fans.

However, when she discovers that her fiancé is cheating, she breaks down and marries a complete stranger in the crowd.

The story is produced by and stars Jennifer Lopez, with Owen Wilson, Maluma, John Bradley, Chloe Coleman and Sarah Silverman rounding out the cast. The film was just released on Feb. 11.

The story of “Cyrano de Bergerac” is returning to the silver screen in the eponymously titled “Cyrano.” The film, starring Peter Dinklage, tells the story of Cyrano, a man who falls in love with a beautiful woman named Roxanne but is afraid because of his social status and physical appearance. But when Roxanne falls in love with his friend Christian, Cyrano uses his skills as a poet to bring him and Roxanne together.

Dinklage stars as Cyrano, with Haley Bennett, Kelvin Harrison Jr., Ben Mendelsohn and Bashir Sala-

huddin. The film will be released on Feb. 25.

From 20th Century Studios, the hit Emmy-winning series “Bob’s Burgers” will release its first big-screen movie.

The movie starts with a ruptured water main that ruins the Belcher family’s plans for a successful business summer. As patriarch and matriarch Bob and Linda try to save the shop, children Louise, Tina and Gene work to save the store on their own by solving a big mystery that could save their family.

H. Jon Benjamin, John Roberts, Dan Mintz, Kristen Schaal, Eugene Mirman and Larry Murphy reprise their roles from the show, with Zach Galifianakis and Kevin Kline joining the cast. The film will be released on May 27.

Warner Bros. is plan-



Courtesy of Flickr.com

Some of the previous musicals that were released on Broadway that later had movie adaptations. 2022 will feature a string of new musical movies for fans to see

ning to release a biographical film around the superstar Elvis. Not much is known about the film, but it is expected to be released on June 24.

The film will star Tom Hanks, Olivia DeJonge, Yola Quartey, Luke Bracey, Natasha Bassett, Kelvin Harrison Jr., Dacre Montgomery, Kodi Smit-McPhee and Austin Butler as Elvis.

The long-awaited and much-anticipated sequel to the movie “Enchanted,” will finally be released this year. The film, titled “Disenchanted” focuses on former princess Giselle and her husband Robert as they move to a

new community. When their new lives start to cause problems, Giselle wishes that their lives could be more like a fairy tale ... which puts them and Giselle’s former home in the kingdom of Andalasia in danger.

Amy Adams, Patrick Dempsey, James Marsden and Idina Menzel will reprise their roles while Yvette Nicole Brown, Jayma Mays, Oscar Nunez, Gabriella Baldacchino and Maya Rudolph join them. The film will be released this year.

Finally, Netflix will release a new stop-motion musical version of the story of Pinocchio.

The film will be directed by Guillermo del Toro. It is a “dark and twisted” retelling of the story of Pinocchio set during 1930s Fascist Italy.

The film features newcomer Gregory Mann as Pinocchio, with Ewan McGregor, David Bradley, Finn Wolfhard, Cate Blanchett, Ron Perlman, Christoph Waltz and Tilda Swinton joining the cast. The release date is set for December.

With these and many more musicals expected to release this year, 2022 is looking to continue the tradition of amazing musicals.

'Sounds about white.' Winthrop community not surprised by university's seemingly failed commitment to diversity as shown in presidential finalists

Commentary from Editor-in-Chief Bryn Eddy on three finalists for the position of Winthrop University's 12th president. This opinion piece was originally published in the Feb. 9 issue and is being reprinted in the Feb. 16 issue.

TW: Mention of sexual assault

BRYN EDDY
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The Presidential Search Committee has announced the three finalists for the position of Winthrop University's 12th president. All of them are men, and upon first glance, it seemed as though each candidate is white.

"Sounds about white," commented Grace Jones, '15, on the university's Instagram post about the presidential finalists.

During candidate Edward Serna's presentation at Dina's Place on Feb. 7, he said that he is Hispanic, a fact

many were not aware of until his mention of it.

Looks can be deceiving, and therefore, we should keep an open mind about the next two candidates, Martin Roth and Neal Weaver.

The next two candidates' professional backgrounds are similar to that of our previous presidents. Both currently serve as presidents of primarily white institutions including the University of Charleston in West Virginia (58% white, 22% unknown, 9% Black, 2% Hispanic, 1% Asian, according to collegesimply.com)

and Georgia Southwestern State University (72% white, 23.9% Black, 4.1% other, according to collegefactual.com).

If it comes down to the other two candidates, it appears that (though looks can be deceiving) the next president will blend in with nine of the 11 former presidents, who were all white men — the other two were white women who, combined, served only three years. The other 133 years of Winthrop's history have been led by white men.

Winthrop's 12th president will be the

face of not only the university but the Rock Hill and York County communities as well.

When people from outside of the community look at us, they will see an inaccurate depiction of who we are. They will not see LGBTQ people. They will not see differently-abled people, and if Serna is not hired, they will not see diverse people.

Instead, they will see a face that is all too similar to those of our presidential past. They will see a university that seems unwilling to depart from its confederate history.

They will see a campus still decorated with statues of and buildings named after men whose successes were built on the backs of people of color.

"[The diversity of the finalists] definitely came as a shock to me as well since Winthrop is a university that prides itself on diversity and inclusion," said Erin Emiroglu, chair of the Council of Student Leaders. "I was not able to be a part of the application process, so I did not know the candidates until the students did. ... We just learned today that the first candidate is

Hispanic, so he is part of a minority group, and a lot of people assumed that he was just this white man.

"... I think that even if the candidates are not diverse, as long as they are willing to work towards diversity and inclusion, then there is hope, definitely."

On Winthrop's Instagram, a post was made on Feb. 4 in honor of Black History Month. The post featured four women of color who will be remembered as trailblazers in Winthrop's history. This was the second-most recent post made on the...

visit MYTJNOW.COM to read the rest of this opinion piece

My Name is Sir Benoit

