



Winthrop University

January 23, 2025

Rock Hill, SC

SPRING SPORTS PREVIEW

See what sports are happening in the spring and the various storylines revolving around the teams and players

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Editor-in-Chief, Clark Vilardebo, reflects on the past semester and discusses the reason behind taking on the position

METAL'S RESURGENCE IN 2024

A look into metal music's re-emergence and what's in store for the genre in 2025

Winthrop cornhole wins big at the ACL National Competition

Coach Dusty Thompson and players share their thoughts on the season and winning national titles at Myrtle Beach.



Winthrop cornhole players practicing at the American Cornhole League Headquarters in Rock Hill, SC

photo by Jackson Stanton

Clark Vilardebo
Editor-in-Chief

Following a recruitment process and inaugural season that saw much national media attention, Winthrop cornhole lives up to the hype and wins national titles in doubles and singles at the American Cornhole League (ACL) National Competition.

The ACL National Competition took place over winter break on January 2-3 at the Myrtle Beach Sports Center, with over 40 college teams from across the nation participating.

Much of the Winthrop cornhole team participated in the competition, but it was players Luke

Bryant, Josh Quinn, Jaxson Remmick and Gavin Hamann who took home titles.

Luke Bryant and Josh Quinn won the doubles championship against fellow Winthrop teammates Colson Clary and Jacob Harrison.

When the Johnsonian talked with Coach Thompson before

the championship, he mentioned one of his goals was to see Winthrop vs. Winthrop in the national competition.

When we asked him about it this time around though, he described it as "nail-biting."

"So it was not fun. I didn't want to see them play each other. I mean,

I did, but ultimately somebody's gotta lose," said coach Thompson. "If you noticed during that broadcast, I just kept looking [away] because I didn't really want to watch."

Quinn echoed a similar sentiment. "Playing against my Winthrop teammates, Jaxson and Gavin, was a bit strange. We've

spent a lot of time together, so it felt odd to compete against them," Quinn said.

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In the teams division,

Cont. on pg. 6

Board of Trustees approves financial changes for students

Pricing for tuition, meal plans and housing have been updated for the 2025-2026 year.

Lanie Cauthen
Staff Writer

Changes are coming to Winthrop University – impacting student tuition, meal plans and housing.

"Aligned with some of our Phase 1 strategic plan initiatives, the board's decisions reflect a new and more transparent approach that will help students and their families better understand the charges they encounter as they pursue their degrees at Winthrop," Winthrop President Edward Serna said, according to a press release on Winthrop's website.

The board of trustees approved changes to how the university charges students for tuition. Students enrolled in less than 12

credit hours will pay the same as the 2024-2025 rates – while students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours will pay per credit hour equal to the previous rate divided by 15. These changes are meant to push full-time enrollment for students.

"Part-time students would be paying slightly more than most full-time students, thus incentivizing full-time enrollment and earlier graduation," CFO and vice president for finance and business affairs Kevin Butler said, according to a press release on Winthrop's website.

Technology and student activity fees will now be charged separately – alongside

Cont. on pg. 2

Winthrop's week-long celebration of Martin Luther King Jr taking a new shape

What existed before as a series of service opportunities, to become legacy oriented and more informative, with new events happening throughout the week.



Video of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. playing at the candlelight vigil in Dina's Place

Photo by Clark Vilardebo

Gabriela Griggs
Staff Writer

Since 2000, Winthrop University has made efforts to observe MLK Day "as a day of celebration, remembrance and service with events sponsored by various departments and

organizations." As a holiday, MLK Day exists as the only federal holiday established as a national day of service. Over the past few years, Winthrop has established week-long community service-focused events in

celebration of Martin Luther King Jr., following the federal holiday observed on the third Monday in January.

According to Collins Cornwell, Winthrop's Director of Student Conduct, the university "[wants] to encourage

and empower our students to create a legacy here on campus through service," this year while also establishing new educational events centered around the legacy of Martin Luther

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Police Blotter



Evi Houston
Staff Writer

Property damage at Winthrop Baseball Stadium

An individual was reported to campus police for cutting down a flag at the Winthrop Baseball Stadium on Jan. 12. Following this destruction of property, the subject pointed a knife in the direction of the surrounding people. The subject faced no consequences for their behavior, as they left the scene before police arrived.

Former student stalks professor

A faculty member at Winthrop University contacted WUPD on Jan. 14 concerning communication with a former student. The student had been sending various, unrelated emails to the professor as well as communicating with her husband. The student had also commented on the Instagram posts of the victim's daughters. Police contacted the alumna and directed her to end all communications.

Winthrop property left unlocked over Winter Break

During routine property checks over Winter Break, WUPD found three cases of unsecured doors around campus. The doors of Joynes Hall were found unlocked on Jan. 2 with signs of a break-in, although nothing of value was lost. At the Track and Soccer complex, two doors to the men and women's locker rooms were unsecured on Jan. 10. Three additional doors were found unsecured at The Shack later that day. Both buildings were checked and secured.

Woman falls at Winthrop Coliseum

A woman was sitting in a chair at the Winthrop Coliseum on Jan. 11 when it broke, causing her to fall. She hit the floor and injured her back, requiring medical treatment. EMS was called and transported the victim to Piedmont Medical for treatment.



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Board of Trustees meeting | Cont. from pg. 1

other mandatory fees. Fees for specialized course material – including art and lab fees – were adjusted for the 2025-2026 year. “These course fees are evaluated annually to determine the need for a fee and whether existing fees should be increased, decreased or eliminated,” said Provost Sebastian van Delden, according to a press release on Winthrop’s website. Meal prices are set to go up by 3.6% to adapt to figures from the Consumer Price Index – the measure of the

change in prices for the average person. Fees for the Wellness Center are set to increase by 4% to cover an increased cost of labor.

The university is also working towards officially purchasing Courtyard from the Winthrop University Real Estate Foundation.

The board of trustees approved the use of a Higher Education Revenue Bond. The request will need to go before the State’s Joint Bond Review Committee

and the State Fiscal Accountability Authority to be approved. Winthrop officials anticipate the cost of Courtyard not to exceed \$10 million.

The Board contracted \$7.8 million dollars to put in a new chemistry lab and generator in the Sims Science Building and update the emergency power in Dalton Hall. Both buildings will also receive refreshed lobbies.

The fire alarms in Dinkins Hall are set to be replaced – costing \$275,550.

Housing prices are set to increase for the 2025-2026 year.

Students living in Margaret Nance can expect a 2% increase in price. Suite-style housing prices will increase by 4% – impacting Lee Wicker, Thomson and Phelps Hall. Courtyard residents can expect a 3% increase in price.

If needed for the fall semester, the price of Roddey Hall will increase by 4% – remaining the lowest price option for students.

The cost increase is

related to higher utility pricing and higher salaries, wages and benefits for staff.

“Despite past annual increases, the pricing for Winthrop’s student housing continues to lag behind off-campus housing alternatives,” Serna said, according to a press release on Winthrop’s website.

For more information regarding the upcoming changes to campus, visit <https://www.winthrop.edu/president/faculty-and-staff-december-18-2024.aspx>.

Winthrop University to lead statewide education project through federal grant

New funding allows Winthrop to lead “SC RISE,” an initiative to provide residencies for upcoming teachers.

Kyan Feser
Staff Writer

Winthrop University recently received a \$6 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, according to a press release from Winthrop President Edward A. Serna.

The grant was announced on January 15 and is part of a project to establish year-long teacher residencies statewide, Serna said.

The project, named “SC RISE” (South Carolina Residencies

Impacting Schoolwide Equity), plans to “recruit and retain aspiring teachers,” he explained.

These residencies will hopefully provide rigorous training for teachers, and lessen the number of teachers leaving the field, said Education Dean Beth Costner.

Winthrop is the lead institution in the project, collaborating with various South Carolina universities including Clemson University, Columbia

College and the University of South Carolina at Columbia.

The South Carolina Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement is also involved with the project, as they are stationed at Winthrop.

“We are excited to be launching a statewide initiative to establish teacher residencies as a transformative strategy for improving education,” Serna said. “It speaks volumes to Winthrop’s

commitment to teacher preparation, recruitment and retention as the university was one of only three award recipients for the early phase competition focused on educator recruitment and retention.”

The project will initially partner with middle schools, starting its efforts to establish residency policies during this time.

While Winthrop already requires year-

long internships for potential teachers, the grant adds an extra layer of financial support, said Costner.

“We are indeed fortunate to have outstanding faculty and staff who devote time, energy and expertise into completing detailed applications and rigorous processes to garner these grants which ultimately, in addition to funding exciting projects, raise our institutional profile,” said Serna.

South Carolina Legislature reconsiders bill to classify abortion as homicide and ban the practice at all stages of pregnancy

The “South Carolina Prenatal Protection Act”, as explained by sponsor Josiah Magnuson, would notably redefine personhood in South Carolina law and provide no exceptions for rape or incest.

Evi Houston
Staff Writer

The South Carolina Legislature began its 126th session on Jan. 14 with the introduction of the “South Carolina Prenatal Protection Act”, a bill seeking to escalate abortion prohibitions in the state by redefining personhood. The bill would roll back protections the state currently has regarding abortion in the first six weeks of pregnancy to a complete ban by classifying the practice at any stage of fetal development as homicide. While its success in the House is uncertain, the bill and the arguments of its proponents reflect a national trend towards restricting abortion access following the 2022 Dobbs decision.

The bill centers the prosecution of illegal abortions, notably allowing life sentences and capital punishment to those found guilty of the “homicide of unborn children”. This possibility has drawn widespread negative attention to the act from Republicans and Democrats alike for its

drastic measures, as took place during its original introduction in the 2023 congressional session.

The bill is predicated on the belief that life begins at the “moment of fertilization”, and that from this moment on, the justice system is required to provide due process to all persons, regardless of their legal status. This includes protections against homicide and assault of all people.

Representative Josiah Magnuson, Republican and member of the far-right Freedom Caucus, is one of the seven sponsors of the bill and a staunch supporter of these sorts of legal protections since 2018.

Magnuson gave his argument for the bill to The Johnsonian, saying “Equal protection means that everybody should be treated equally. You have the laws that protect born people be the laws that protect unborn people. Those same laws should apply across courts.”

The legal rights of what some (but not all) would classify as a person is an

area. For this reason, conservative lawmakers draw from the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, an amendment originally intended to prevent legal discrimination towards former slaves, to assert that while a fetus cannot be given the respect of full citizenship, it should still receive the protections guaranteed for all people, as is done with immigrants.

When asked about this technicality, Magnuson explained, “The 14th Amendment makes clear that

that enable the commission of wilful prenatal homicide and assault.”

This focus on prosecuting homicide over its intended consequences in the courts. According to South Carolina law, homicide, particularly to those under age eleven, can be punished by the death penalty. This takes prosecution of the once-legal practice to a new extreme, although Magnuson feels coverage regarding

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Representative Josiah Magnuson

Photo via www.josiahmagnuson.com

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Hudson Mize, Advertising Manager

Celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. | Cont. from pg. 1

King Jr.

This year, instead of the usual fully service-oriented schedule, Winthrop has taken to change towards an impact-focused celebratory week.

Hosted Jan. 19-25, there will be four educational events hosted on campus alongside two community service opportunities, all of which aim to remind students of the nature and teachings of Martin Luther King Jr.

The Division of Student Affairs, a campus student organization, has outlined the following sponsored activities that will be hosted throughout the week of Jan. 19.

All residence halls on campus began to conduct a canned food drive. The location of the drop-off box may vary depending on each respective student hall. The food drive calls for non-perishable food

items, such as particular canned goods, pasta, beans, rice, or any other long-standing shelf-safe goods. This drive will last throughout the week and end on Jan. 25.

On Jan. 20, a candlelight vigil was held at Dina's Place. Sponsored by the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, this vigil began with an hour-and-a-half-long program consisting of multiple presentations by members of Alpha Phi Alpha and performances by Winthrop's "Vision of Prayze" gospel choir.

The main speaker at this event was Alpha Phi Alpha Brother Jacobe Reid, a Winthrop alumnus, who used his time with students to share passages and stories from the Bible. As a youth minister at The Worship Center of Spartanburg, Reid describes himself as "a scholar, a leader and

[most] importantly, [a] child of God." Using his religious passions, Reid committed his time on campus to uniting students and sharing with them words of encouragement and inspiration, of which led right into the official professional event: the MLK Candlelight Vigil held on Campus Green. Students held lit candles in a circle formation and were led by Brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha in prayers and shared words.

Following the vigil, there was an MLK Brunch held on Jan. 21 at 11 a.m. in Dina's Place and words from the South Carolina Representative and alumnus Kambrell Garvin, and Winthrop's own Political Science and African American Studies Professor Adolphus Beck Jr., whose work has been published in "The Journal of Race and Policy" amongst others.

On Jan. 22, a 45-minute documentary titled "Counter Histories: The Friendship Nine" was presented in Dina's Place at 7 p.m. This documentary centers around the nine African American men who were arrested for staging a sit-in at a segregated lunch counter here in Rock Hill in 1961. Department of Curriculum and Pedagogy faculty member Crystal Glover, a Winthrop alumnus, and Department of History faculty member Jennifer Dixon-McKnight both spoke at this event.

On Jan. 23, an event titled "Ima Be Me: Black in White Spaces" will be held in G02 Owens Hall at 11 a.m. The guest speakers appearing at this event include Theophilus Clark, Winthrop Director of Race and

Year Experience, and

Winthrop alumnus Bry-Anne Jones, who also serves as a campus counseling services Director. This will be an event focused on exploring the experiences of Black students when attending predominantly White educational institutions in America.

To conclude MLK Week, Winthrop's Office of Sustainability will host a "Clean Up" on Campus Green, beginning early that day at 10 a.m. This is an event that has remained consistent throughout Winthrop's various MLK Week celebrations, establishing itself a tradition. These clean-ups previously used to occur every Friday in January, but this year Winthrop will hold the event on the 24th.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day has been honored and observed throughout

campus since 2000. While the original establishment of the holiday was in 1986, Winthrop University makes continual efforts to ensure the holiday and its nature are appropriately upheld and honored throughout campus. The establishment of MLK week, especially with its new legacy and impact focus, helps further uplift and broadcast African American voices on campus, whether student or faculty.

This dedication to informing campus by honoring African American experiences through a series of educational workshops, informative speakers and service events is an admirable step forward and a trait that will hopefully be further uplifted throughout the quickly upcoming month of February, notably established as Black History Month.

Letter from the Editor: An Ode to Joseph

Clark Vilardebo
Editor-in-Chief

With it being the beginning of a new year and semester, I figured now would be the perfect time to ring in our first issue of the semester with my "Letter from the Editor."

As I sit and reflect on my first half of the year being editor-in-chief, I am filled with immense gratitude and pride for what we have accomplished so far. Papers have been flying off the shelves, as I'm constantly having to restock outside our office and at places like Johnson and Kinard Hall.

That's where the gratitude lies, but the pride comes from the work the other members of the Johnsonian have put in. Without their writing, story ideas and overall input, the paper would not be anywhere close to where it is today. It has truly been

a team effort and they have made my job as stress-free as possible.

However, I don't know if I would have taken this job, if it wasn't for one person. Before I took up the EIC job, I was an after school counselor in the Fort Mill school district. During this time, I worked with many kids who changed my world views and made me a better person. One of these kids was a kindergartner by the name of Joseph.

Joseph was an extremely energetic, artistic, and kind kid. He often made his parents stay in the pick up line if his art project wasn't done in time. He also loved Pokemon and hockey, so much so that he would often bring his Pokemon card binder to after school.

On January 4, 2024, I walked into our site for winter break like it was any other day. However, the moment

I stepped in, I could sense the melancholy and gloom in the air. That's when my boss told all of the staff from our site to step outside, as she had something important to discuss.

When the next words came out of her mouth, I could feel my heart sink into my gut. Joseph was put on life support, and we needed a miracle for him to come out of it. I just remember rushing to the bathroom to bawl my eyes out immediately after receiving the news.

The next few days were the worst part, as we were all just waiting to hear any good news. On January 7, we received the heartbreaking news that Joseph's family took him off life support.

All of this not only coincided with the start of the new semester for Fort Mill kids, but the start of the new semester for Winthrop

students. The first few weeks I felt like a black hole of grief and sadness, not wanting to talk to anyone in my classes and doing my best to avoid being seen.

Eventually, my professor for three out of my four classes – Professor Schulte – helped me come out of my shell. As time passed, the wounds began to heal, but Joseph was still always in the back of my mind.

The next time I saw professor Schulte, I told him I want to apply for the position, and the rest is history. What I'm trying to say is, college (and/or life) is difficult. Oftentimes we get our heads stuck in textbooks and studying for exams that we often put our passions on the back burner, when we should be seizing the moment and grabbing the bull by the horns.

Shortly after, Schulte came to me with a question: "How would you feel about applying for the editor-in-chief position?"

Initially, I was taken aback by the question. I believed I

was unqualified for the position and I was still working after school, so I was not ready to jump into it.

But like I previously mentioned, Joseph was continuously in the back of my mind. Joseph passed away before he could truly find out what he loved to do so I reached the mindset of: "If not for myself, do it for Joseph. Do it for those who never got the chance."

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What I'm trying to say is, college (and/or life) is difficult. Oftentimes we get our heads stuck in textbooks and studying for exams that we often put our passions on the back burner, when we should be seizing the moment and grabbing the bull by the horns.

I dragged my feet my first two years here, and it took an unfathomable

loss for me to finally get involved. It is something that I wish I did much sooner.

We must live life to the fullest and continue pushing ourselves. There are people around the world – everyday – who would give up so much to live our experiences. There are people who are no longer with us who we must continue to live for.

That message is especially important now, as we enter into a second Trump presidency. It's easy to put our heads down and wallow, but it takes real courage to live in the face of adversity.

The time to follow our passions is now. Waiting around is a thing of the past. I hope that as you – the reader – start this new semester, that my words may resonate with you a bit.

Here's to a new year and new semester, Eagles!

Metal music's resurgence in 2024

Mia Molfetta
Staff Writer

2024 was a massive year for pop music, between new albums from Taylor Swift and Billie Eilish, to Chappell Roan's massive rise to stardom.

However, 2024 was a particularly busy and big year for another genre: metal. Throughout the year, fans saw a lot of new tours and projects from older bands such as Limp Bizkit and Linkin Park, and big years for current genre heavyweights Bring Me the Horizon, Ghost and Gojira.

Some bands announced new albums – like Linkin Park, with their brand new album, From Zero. This is the band's first album in

over 7 years, as the band was on hiatus due to the passing of longtime singer Chester Bennington.

The band brought in former Dead Sara lead singer Emily Armstrong to replace Bennington, which was met with some controversy due to her Scientology past. Nonetheless, the album opened to number 2 on the Billboard Top 200, and reached number 1 in the U.K.

The band announced a world tour following the album's release, which is set to begin in Mexico City, Mexico on January 31, 2025.

Bring Me the Horizon released their brand new album, POST HUMAN: NeX GEN – which features collabs with artists such as, Lil Uzi Vert, AURORA, and Underoath.

Megan Thee Stallion collaborated with the band Spiritbox on her new song "TYG." She had previously done a different collaboration with Spiritbox to create a rock/metal twist to her hit song, "Cobra," that her fans and listeners have raved about!

The band Ghost released their movie, "RITE HERE RITE NOW," worldwide over the span of June 20-24. The movie contains live performances from all of their past five albums, their hit song "Mary on a Cross" and more.

People online raved about this movie. Major fans are excited that it was on the big screen, and others just appreciate the art of the songs and plots of the movie.

According to the movie's official website, the synopsis is as follows: "RITE HERE RITE NOW" is, however, so much more than a concert movie. GHOST's debut feature film combines live performance from the two-night finale of the band's RE-IMPERATOUR U.S.A. 2023 with a narrative story that picks up plot threads from the band's long-running webisode series."

Ghost will also be going on a world tour in 2025, with their first show being in Manchester, U.K., on April 15.

French metal band Gojira made history by being the first metal band to perform at the Olympics; during which they had an iconic moment when

they showed a headless Marie Antoinette in the opening shot, as they performed in front of the prison she was held in.

The performance was a massive hit and was shared across countless social media apps. Due to high demand, the band released a recording of the performance titled "Mea Culpa (Ah! Ça Ira!)."

The band Limp Bizkit held their North American Tour. They released their newest album in 2021, and they have been on and off of tours and doing festivals for the past few years now. The band has been given new life in recent years thanks in large part to younger audiences.

However, it is frontman Fred Durst

who has had a bit of career renaissance, as he had major roles in two movies in 2024: award-nominated "I Saw the TV Glow" and the comedy "Y2K," where he played a fictionalized version of himself.

The world of the metal genre has been heavily active the last year and even into the month of January already.

The subgenres of metal have also been quite active: tons of new music has been released from big artists as talked about above, to smaller up-and-coming artists, and even underground artists.

The love for the art of metal music and the subgenres are strong, and have been for the last few years.



Photo of Jonathan Sumpter
by Adriane Alston



Photo of Annicka Phillips
by Adriane Alston

Adriane Alston
Staff Writer

New Year's Resolutions, or a few new years full of resignation? The tradition of writing new year's resolutions dates back almost 4,000 years ago, yet even to this day the tradition reigns supreme. While to some, the new year represents a fresh start and a newfound ability to change, to others the concept of "New Year, New Me" is simply outdated and stupid.

In an attempt to see what this tradition means to the growing demographic of young adults, I have taken it to the streets and asked a few college students their perspective on this global phenomenon which is the New Year. While many were similar, a few interviews stuck out to me.

Johnathan Sumpter, an optimistic yet authentic student, provided a vivid depiction of his ideologies surrounding

the new year. While he was not completely against the curation of New Year's Resolutions, he said, "New Year's Resolutions are only important if you have the mindset to continue working toward the goal."

Johnathan's philosophy highlighted the Global Holiday "Quitter's Holiday", a holiday that occurs every Jan. 10 and that was curated to depict the individuals who abandon their new

year's resolutions by only the second week in January! Sumpter did not completely negate the power in which some individuals place on this global phenomenon, but offered a more authentic approach. Highlighting that "to whom much is given, much is required." While it is commendable to want to be better than you were the previous year, you don't have to wait until the new year to actively try to become

better.

When asked about her mentality towards the New Year, Annicka Phillips offered a very optimistic and positive perspective. Phillips said, "I do not feel like they are dumb." She highlighted the importance of setting goals and having a positive mindset surrounding the new year. She also highlighted the importance of breaking down goals in an effort to make them more attainable; aiding the

gradual completion and success of the goals that matter to you the most.

As a new semester begins, remember that you are not defined by "how much you do or do not" complete. To be alive and healthy is a privilege in itself and there is no timeline or blueprint for success. One's personal perception of success or in this case the New Year can be completely different than others and that is completely okay! Happy New Year's if you celebrate!



Photo by Clark Vilardebo
Limp Bizkit performing at Welcome to Rockville in Daytona Beach, Florida

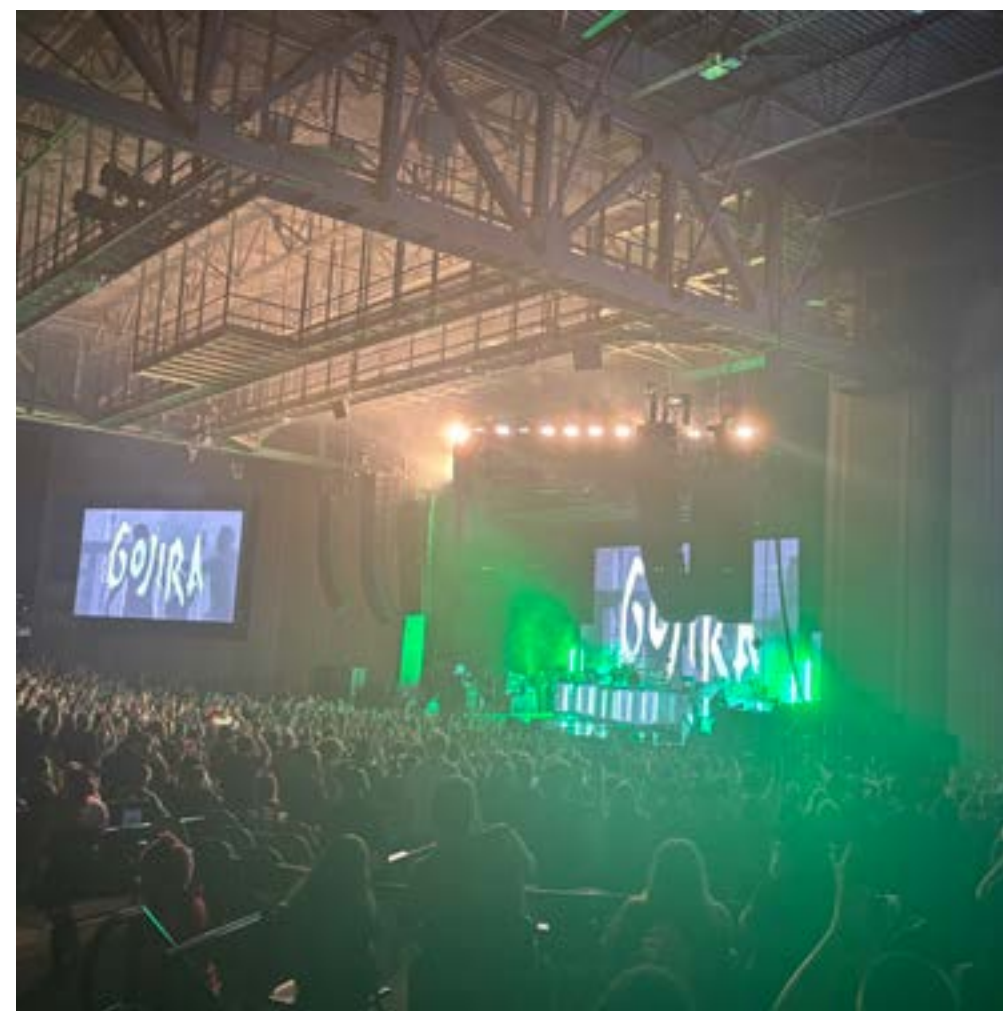


Photo by Clark Vilardebo
Gojira performing at PNC Pavilion in Charlotte, North Carolina

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Winthrop Cornhole I Cont. from pg. 1

Quinn and Bryant teamed up with Rimmick and Hamann to take home the championship.

Bryant, a state champion in high school football and wrestling in Virginia, compared his victories at the ACL National Competition to those championships.

"Winning doubles and teams felt a lot like winning in football and winning big matches in wrestling as a team, because not only are you excited for yourself but you are even more excited you get to celebrate with your teammates," said Bryant.

Hamann and Rimmick made national headlines in Feb. 2024 when Winthrop offered them the first collegiate cornhole scholarships in history.

While this kind of

publicity can seem daunting, Hamann said "it gave us a drive to want to win even more."

It is also not lost on Hamann and Rimmick when it comes to their impact on collegiate cornhole.

"Seeing the impact I am making on this sport along with my team here at Winthrop shows me there is so much more we are doing," said Hamann. "With this sport growing more and more every year, it is a good feeling to know Jaxson and I helped pave the way for these kids."

Winthrop's investment in the cornhole program is already paying off, and it appears to be getting even stronger.

"Right now you know the iron's hot, you got to strike while it's hot, so I am in the process

of letting our first recruit of the year go this week. It is a 5-star recruit, so I'm pretty excited to announce that they're coming," said Coach Thompson.

Winthrop will also be adding multiple women's players to the team.

"I have multiple girls coming this year to expand the program and I'm pretty excited about that," said coach Thompson. "I have two that's already committed that are top players on the female side, and will give a lot of the guys a run for their money."

The cornhole team's dominance even has players from other universities entering the transfer portal to join the program, which includes two women's players as well.

"Obviously since then I get lit up all the

time with kids trying to come to [our] school, but I actually got hit up with requests from people that are at other schools to hit the transfer portal," said coach Thompson. "Some good players from other schools too, so we're gonna see what happens there, but it's pretty awesome to see."

Bryant, Quinn, Rimmick and Hamann will be awarded a purse prize, which can be put toward their scholarship.

While this was certainly a banner first season for Winthrop cornhole, players are still striving to take it to a higher level for this next collegiate season.

"Well, there is really only one thing I want next for us, and that is to get all three national championships and represent Winthrop," said Hamann.



Josh Quinn, from left, Gavin Hamann, Luke Bryant, Jaxson Rimmick via Instagram/ @americancornholeleague

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South Carolina Prenatal Protection Act I Cont. from pg. 2

capital punishment has been overblown.

"There's no penalties mandated in the bill at all, that would be up to the court system. If these crimes are committed, a homicide crime, that would be judged by a jury, and then you know, there would be sentencing, which would be something totally different."

The sponsor views such harsh punishments as merely hypothetical, defending their potentiality in saying "this bill is more of a deterrent." He goes on to say, "No one has ever been prosecuted in the United States under any real life law so far. There's just no one willing to do it. There's no attorney generals willing to do it. There's no solicitors willing to do it. And part of this is because there's no good

evidence."

This conflict between the bill's assertions of prosecution and due process and its proponents clear understanding that such a penalization is unlikely to materialize makes it unique on a national scale, attempting to impose a full ban on abortion using semantic arguments of personhood while doubting that such language would ever be utilized in court.

Another unique aspect of the bill is its lack of provision for abortions in cases where pregnancy was the result of rape or incest. Magnuson defended this choice, saying "If you're a human being, then you're a human being. It shouldn't matter. [...] Murder is not the answer to rape.

The answer to rape is compassion, and the answer to rape is to prosecute law."

There are two primary exceptions in the bill which would immunize individuals who have received an abortion. If the defendant can testify that they were coerced or forced into having an abortion against their will, they are no longer held accountable for homicide.

Elaborating on what he felt was a common misconception of the bill, Magnuson said "Anybody, any party to the crime, could be charged. So that means a man could be charged if he pushes a woman to have an abortion [...] It's not just targeting women."

Life of the mother and unintentional, spontaneous miscarriages

are additional considerations in the bill. The act carves out that an abortion performed due to "threat of imminent death or great bodily injury" will not be subject to such restrictions.

Magnuson reiterated, "There's not going to be a situation where somebody is going to be held for criminal penalties for making some sort of decision in a medical emergency."

When asked about the trajectory of the Prenatal Protection Act for this session, Magnuson said, "We have been told that House leadership does not want to take up any pro-life bills this year. They don't want to touch the issue right now. So for someone like me, that's disappointing, because I think that the lives of

these unborn children do matter. We've seen where the numbers of abortion have gone down in South Carolina [...] That's where, even though we don't have prosecution, it is a deterrent, and we know that it works."

The representative believes that his take on the issue, while unpopular in the legislature, is shared by the majority of his constituents in Spartanburg County.

"It's almost unanimous, the people who I represent believe that the unborn child is a person [...] There's differences of opinion on how to get to the end zone, but I think in my district, everybody agrees that abortion needs to be made completely illegal, eventually."

Giving a final word on his support for

the bill, Magnuson rallied against its media portrayal and categorization as extreme, saying "This is still in the Republican Party platform of the state. If you go and look at it, this is how it's explained, the unborn child from conception is considered a person and is worthy of equal protection under the law. This bill just put into effect that platform plank of the Republican Party." He continued that Democratic voices have exaggerated the consequences of the bill for their "propaganda purposes."

The South Carolina Prenatal Protection Act is currently sitting in the House's Judiciary Committee, who will determine whether to bring it to the floor as the 2025 session continues.

Winthrop 2025 spring sports preview

The current line-up and schedules for Winthrop Sports in the 2025 Spring semester

Omar Woods
Staff Writer

With the start of the second semester at Winthrop comes the spring sports season along with it. Winthrop's spring sports teams, such as the baseball and lacrosse teams, are gearing up for their respective upcoming sports seasons. Other spring sports teams, like the men's and women's basketball teams, are continuing their seasons from 2024.

The student body as well as not only preparing for the new

semester, but also for the upcoming sports season as well as many look forward to supporting their student athletes.

"I definitely plan on going to the track meets. My best friend runs track so I'm definitely going to be going to a lot of track meets," said Julian Sparkman, a Sophomore.

A popular spring sport, baseball, is making its return at home on Feb. 14 this year at the Winthrop Ballpark. The baseball team will be going against Merrimack

college at 3:00 p.m. on Friday. The softball team will make their first appearance far from home at the La Jolla Invitational in San Diego, California. They will be facing the following schools: Portland State, UC San Diego, and Long Beach State.

Winthrop's lacrosse team will also be making their return with an at home game on Feb. 14 this year at Eagle Field. They will be going against San Diego State at 4:00 p.m. Winthrop's men and women's track team will make their

first spring appearance at the VMI Invitational starting Jan. 24 in Lexington, Virginia.

"I'm most looking forward to track and field," said Kaylin Cunningham, a Freshman. "I have friends that are on the team and I'm excited to go out and watch them."

The men's basketball team will continue their season into the spring with a match against High Point on Jan. 25 at 2:00 p.m., and then a follow-up game a few days later against Presbyterian College on Jan. 29 at

6:30 p.m. The women's basketball team will also be continuing their season with an upcoming home game against High Point at 2:00 p.m.

"I'm looking most forward to our men's basketball team, as I would like to go to more of the games on the weekends like Saturday nights and just whenever games are here in Rock Hill," said David Johnson, a Junior. "I haven't really been to any games, so it would be a new experience for me as a Junior and I'm really looking forward to

that."

The men's golf team will make their first 2025 appearance far from home at Dorado Beach Collegiate in Dorado Beach, Puerto Rico on Feb. 23. Finally, the women's golf team will make their first appearance at the Rivertowne Invitational starting Feb. 17 in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

To find out more about Winthrop's sports teams schedules for this upcoming season, visit WinthropEagles.com to see what is in store for the rest of the semester.



Winthrop baseball player in mid-release form

Photo by Jackson Stanton



Winthrop lacrosse player mid-match

Photo by Jackson Stanton



Winthrop soccer team huddles together before a match

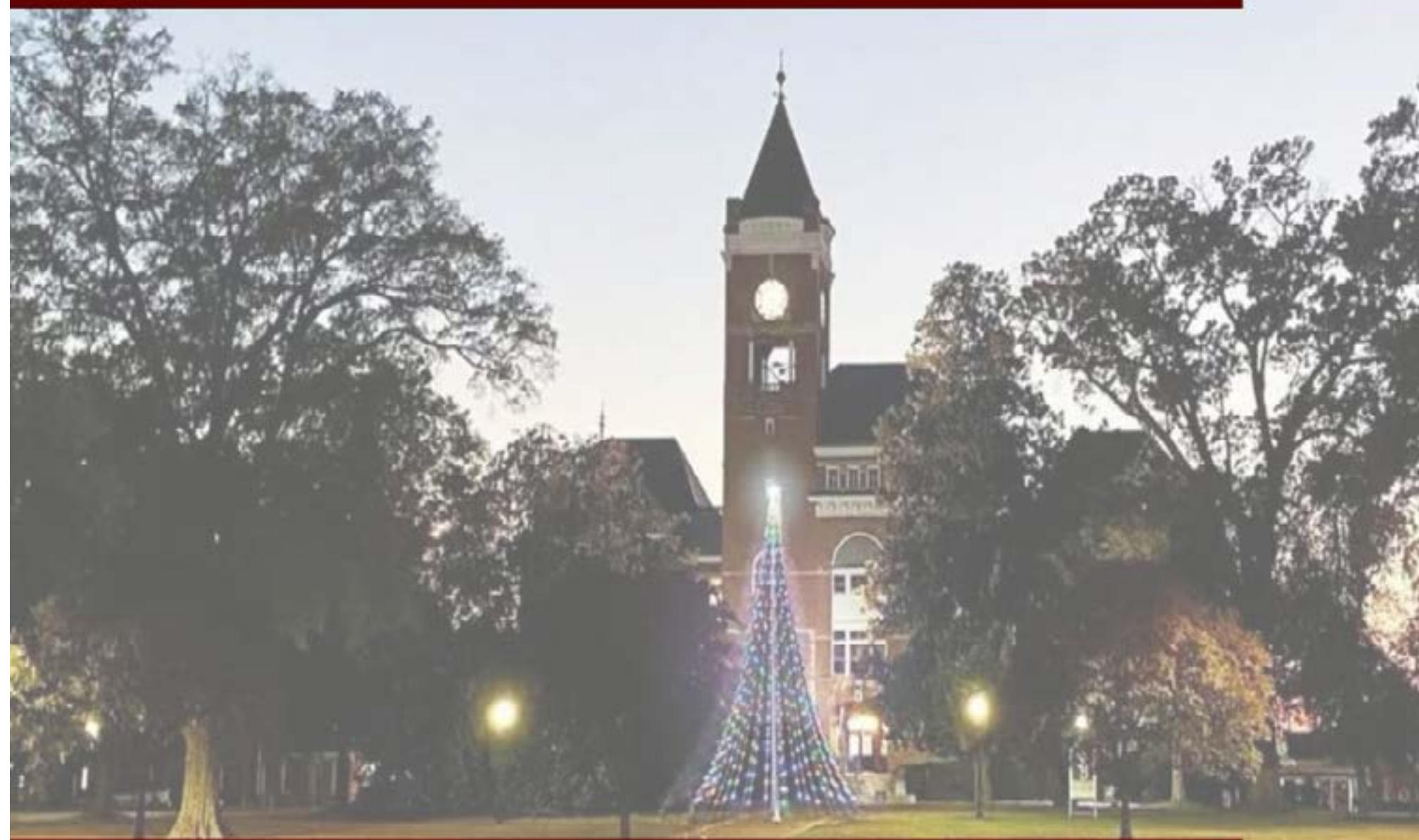
Photo by Jackson Stanton



Winthrop baseball player prepares in the on-deck circle

Photo by Jackson Stanton

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