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Lawson opens coffee shop in Wise

By Allie Robinson
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Students looking for an early morning boost or a late night cup of joe might find themselves wandering over to Steelwater Coffee Bar, which will be open in Wise just in time for exam week.

The shop fills the void left when the Poor

Farm Cafe closed last year, in the Shoppes on Main Plaza on Main St. in Wise.

Brett Lawson, the college's director of dining services, and his wife Sarah are both opening the coffee bar.

The coffee bar will host a "Preview Day" tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The shop will serve hand-steamed hot chocolate and hot apple cider.

"Young people in the area need some-

where to hang out," said Lawson in an e-mail. "I know what it is like to grow up in Wise where there is nothing to do."

Lawson said he and his wife always wanted to open up a coffee shop in the area, and that this seemed a good time to do so.

"We are focusing more on the college students by staying open later at night and on weekends," he said.

"[This] will be a great place to enjoy

a specialty coffee drink, surf the net, study with friends, play games and just hang out," he said.

The shop will have free WiFi and cable TV.

Lawson said the shop is looking to hire workers, and get college students involved.

"I am also looking for artwork to go in

see Coffee, page 4

Cheerleaders to compete at nationals

By Aaron Collier
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The UVA-Wise cheerleading squad will compete in the preliminary rounds of the 2009 Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA) College Cheerleading and Dance National Championship held Jan. 16-18 at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, FL.

If the 19-member team advances through the preliminary and semifinal rounds, they will compete in the national finals on Jan. 18, said head cheerleading and dance team coach Chelsea Lawson.

"I look for us to at least get to the finals," Lawson said. "This is the first time in school history [that the team has competed in nationals] and we are all just really excited."



Lawson

To compete at the championship, colleges and universities must attend a UCA camp or send in a submission video to receive a "bid" or invitation.

Lawson said the college's squad attends a cheerleading gym once-a-week in Church Hill, Tenn. to improve members' skills. During a training session there, someone suggested that she send in a submission tape to the UCA.

And, she did.

"When we sent in our bid tape, we didn't have that high of expectations," Lawson said. "We just wanted to see if we even had a shot and then when we announced in practice [that the team received an invitation] everyone was really excited."

Now that they've been invited, Lawson said the team will have to raise \$7,000 to cover the costs to compete in Orlando. She said the team plans to raise the money with fundraisers and both corporate and family donations. The Office of Student Affairs and SGA will also help with funding, Lawson said.

Lawson said the team has been practicing hard for the competition—especially in the area of stunt stabil-

see Cheer, page 4

Christmas Cheer Bookstore hosts open house



Students, faculty and staff enjoy cookies, vegetables, sandwiches and other snack foods during Wednesday's annual open house at the college bookstore. Most items in the store were 25 percent off, and there were special sales on select items. The bookstore served food from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Attendees took this opportunity to get started on their Christmas shopping.

Photo by David Dyer

SAB to host late night breakfast

By Brittany Robinson
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The Student Activities Board (SAB) will coordinate the Late Night Breakfast on Monday in the Cantrell Hall Dining Room from 10 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The Late Night Breakfast is a semester tradition hosted by the Office of Student Activities and Chartwells.

Chartwells dining provides the food and faculty and staff members serve students.

Residential students, as well as commuters, are invited to participate in this finals week breakfast.

"The Late Night Breakfast is an event that I fondly remember when I was a student here at the college," said Josh Justice, assistant director of student activities. "It is a great opportunity to relax during exam week and it is a lot of fun to interact with the faculty and staff that are there."

The Late Night Breakfast has been a tradition at the college for years and acts as a stress reliever for students before exams.

"The Late Night Breakfast has been a college tradition for as long as I can remember," said Brett Lawson, director of dining services. "It is a great stress buster for the students during exam week and an oppor-

see Breakfast, page 4

December convocation to be held today

From Staff Reports

The college's December graduates will be recognized today in a ceremony in the Fred B. Greear Gymnasium at 1 p.m.

Seventy students will participate in the ceremony.

The chairman of the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors, Thomas F. Farrell II, will serve as keynote speaker for the event. Farrell is also the president and CEO for Dominion.

Others expected to speak include Rhonda Perkins, president of the UVA-Wise Alumni Association; Rachel Tighe, chair of the Faculty Senate; and Travis Brannon, SGA president.

INSIDE



THE CAVS AND LADY CAVS FACED OFF AGAINST CONFERENCE FOR BLUE-FILED ON WEDNESDAY. SEE IF EITHER TEAM BROKE THEIR LOSING STREAK ON PAGE 6.



HAVING TROUBLE FINDING A GOOD PLACE TO STUDY FOR FINALS? MAYBE YOU SHOULD READ THE "TOP 5 PLACES ON CAMPUS TO STUDY FOR FINAL EXAMS" ON PAGE 4.

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BY THE NUMBERS

- X-Mas**
- 7% Percentage of mail South applications directed to live online records by pro-empty.com
- 842 (in millions) number of houses Santa Claus visit on the average Christmas Eve
- 364 Number of presents you would receive if you got all the Christmas books in "The 12 Days of Christmas"
- 55.2% Percentage of people who want books, CDs, DVDs, video games as gifts for Christmas
- 17 Number of deceased trees in the White House
- 47% Percentage of Americans who say they would throw out their cell phone if they could
- 50% Percentage of Americans who wear Christmas-themed clothing during the holidays
- 5340 Number of these per-minute video clips swapped between Thanksgiving and Christmas

Twilight

Continued from page 5

Hardwicke were bringing my beloved "Twilight" series to film, I was curious to know if everything about my favorite vampire family (the Cullens) would be ruined.

When given the opportunity to review the new movie based on the novel by Stephenie Meyer I jumped at the chance.

After viewing the two-hour movie in a jam-packed theater, my mind was reeling with questions and comments on how the movie could ultimately be better, or in most book-to-movie situations, worse.

My thoughts on Twilight are complicated.

Being the loyal reader, and fan-girl that I am, I followed the production of the movie from casting to each trailer released.

I was pleasantly surprised by Melissa Rosenberg, the movie's screenwriter, and how true she stayed to the book while allowing artistic license to be taken into account. Normally, I wouldn't call the object of my affection "spider-monkey," but it worked for the scene.

Top 5 Places on Campus to Study for Final Exams

By Daniel Robinson
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As a senior who is about to enter his final semester at this college, I thought it would be a nice gesture to share some of my favorite study places around campus with all of you poor saps who have to stay here for another few years.

First, however, I should tell you how I plan to grade each of my favorite novels. The criteria are sound level (the room has to be fairly quiet), exclusiveness (it has to be a place few people on campus know about), computer access (all good study areas must have a computer so you can consult Wikipedia) and room to maneuver (you have to have plenty of room to spread out).

And, I should warn you that no place in the library will be mentioned in this list because everyone knows they can study there.

I'm here to bring light to the more obscure study areas on campus.

- 1 Science Center Atrium** (Best time to use: Varies): The Science Center Atrium is both a gift and curse. On the one hand, it's got extremely comfortable chairs. Comfortable enough to fall asleep on for hours at a time. It has huge tables that make it easy for you to look at multiple books and notes at the same time.
- On the other hand, it's got people. While a great place to study, too many people on campus know about and use it—especially during the final week of classes—for it to go any higher than number five on this list.
- Further pros include a computer lab just upstairs and a spot close to the door if you need some fresh air. If you can catch this place at a time when there's not many people around, use it. Otherwise, keep reading.
- 2 Random Classrooms** (Best time to use: Afternoon to late night):
- 3 Zehmer Hall, Writing Center** (Best time to use: Varies): The Writing



Cheer

Continued from page 1

ity. Even though the team is strong in that area, she said they still need to work on making improvements before the competition. The team is already refining that aspect of its routine by weight training twice-a-week, continuing training at Church Hill, holding regular practice and cheering at the home basketball games. The cheerleaders will even stay in Wise over Christmas break to continue their preparations.

"Stunt stability is the most...important judging aspect of the entire routine," Lawson said. "Because a clean stunt done nicely is better than a really advanced stunt that's sloppy."

Beyond any success the squad might find in competition, Lawson said she hopes the team might benefit in the recruiting process.

"We're hoping to get a lot of response recruitment-wise," she said. "[W]hat I hope this is going to bring is just some tradition in the cheerleading program here at Wise," Lawson said.

Lawson said she had high hopes coming into the season and that the team has not disappointed.

"My hopes and expectations for the girls have been set really high for the season and they [the team] know that," Lawson said. "I was just really, really impressed and I feel like if any time we were going to do it this was going to be the year because we have a lot of talent on the squad and a lot of dedication and commitment from all the members...they've really all stepped up."

THIS WEEK IN ENTERTAINMENT

- Movies**
(All released on Dec. 5)
- "Punisher: War Zone" (Lionsgate)**
Cast: Ray Stevenson, Dominic West
Rating: R
Genre: Action
Plot: Continuing his crusade to punish violent criminals, former FBI agent Frank Castle (Stevenson) arrives in New York to take on the city's underworld bosses. (IMDB.com)
 - Music**
(All released on Dec. 9)
 - Common**
"Universal Mind Control" (G.O.O.D. Music/Geffen Records)
Genre: Rap/Hip-Hop
 - Brandy**
"Human" (Epic)
Genre: R&B/Pop
 - Video Games**
"Rygar: The Battle of Argus" (Sega)
(Nov. 9) PS3, Xbox 360, Wii
Rating: Teen (T)
Synopsis: Rygar must rescue the beautiful Princess Harmonia from the deadly island of Argus.

Taylor Swift's new album a must buy for any country fan

By Daniel Robinson
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I realize that by writing this review, I am essentially tiring in all of my "man cards." But dang it, this is a good CD.

As a matter of fact, this is an excellent CD Taylor Swift's sophomore effort, "Fearless," surpasses her self-titled debut in every way. This album has better singing, better writing and flat-out better songs. It's hard not to instantly respect Swift for being able to write her own songs. To know that she wrote most of them at her age (she hasn't even turned 19 yet) only garners her more respect.

Upbeat songs like "Fearless," "Love Story," "You Belong with Me" and "Forever and Always"—all written or co-written by Swift—are some of the catchiest and best on the album.

Even her slow ballads like "Fifteen," "White Horse" and "You're Not Sorry" are almost impossible to not enjoy.

With the exception of the acoustic guitar and occasional fiddle in the background, this could easily be considered a pop album. And, I mean that in a good way. Swift manages to break free from the typical formula of country music: hillbillies, beer and the "Honky Tonk Badonkadonk."

That being said, I can't help but compare her to Shania Twain.

Like Twain, Swift has separated herself from the country norm and could easily make a transition to the pop music scene.

Too often, country singers don't know how to sing about anything else other than how "country" they are. Swift, on the other hand, writes and sings about what matters to her and not what country music expects her to sing about.

I guess that's enough about how innovative she is, let's talk about the music.

Swift co-wrote the song "Breathe" alongside pop's Colbie Caillat—the female Jack Johnson—who also provides background vocals. Caillat's influence is almost immediately heard in the slow ballad and throughout the chorus. It's hard not to think of Caillat's "Realize" when listening to this song. However, Swift's voice is the one that really makes the track what it is—a powerful song about a tough breakup.

Swift also collaborated with John Rich of Big & Rich fame on "The Way I Loved You." His influence is also easy to notice. The song has a similar melody to "8th of November" and "Lost in This Moment" as well as the same hard-hitting chorus.

It's obvious Swift put a lot of heart into "The Best Day," which details the relationship she has with her mother. She sings, "I don't know why all the trees change in the fall...But I know I had the best day with you today."

In all honesty, I could detail every song on this CD, but I will stop and just tell you this is an excellent album. It doesn't have any prolific messages, nor does it make any important social commentaries, it's just a fun CD.

If you're a Taylor Swift fan or a country fan, this is a must buy. If you don't like country, this might be the album that changes your mind.



Rapid Reviews Music

Brittany Spears "Circus" (Jive)

"The singer does double duty as a dance diva and brokenhearted balladeer. It's no easy feat, but when Spears shoves aside the tabloid trauma and hooks up with the right producers—on this album it's Guy Sigsworth, Danja, Dr. Luke and Max Martin—she is in a class of her own.

Ann Donahue/Billboard

The Killers "Day and Age" (Island)

"It [the album] is a hodgepodge of stupid ideas that one will either find brilliant or, well, stupid. However, it is hard to deny that it is a pop album of massive ambition and yet, suffers from none of the pretentiousness that plagues most of The Killers contemporaries in that aspect."

John A. Hanson/Sputnikmusic.com

Movies

"Australia" (20th Century Fox)

"You know something's amiss when you're in the middle of a picture that runs under three hours and you're tempted to whip out your cellphone and send friends a text message that reads 'Send food.'"

Rene Rodriguez/Miami Herald

"Bolt" (Walt Disney)

"Bolt" carries two tales for the price of one, both handled by Disney veterans and first-time directors Chris Williams and Byron Howard with wit, grace, and the dazzling craftsmanship we've come to expect from the studio that's hitched its wagon to Pixar."

Ella Taylor/Village Voice

Video Games

Prince of Persia (PS3, Xbox 360)

"Ubisoft has delivered an incredibly polished, tremendously enjoyable and utterly lovable experience here. It takes all the best elements of previous franchise entries then expands and refines them to create an absolutely unforgettable adventure. It's magical in every sense of the word."

Matt Wales/uk.IGN.com

Destroy All Humans: Path of the Furon (Xbox 360, PS3)

"Here, you'll find little beyond groaners, pedestrian prattle, and underdeveloped monotony. Find another path to walk."

Cameron Lewis/Official Xbox Magazine

Editor's Choice: Top five movies to see during this Christmas break

By Aaron Collier
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It's that time of year again. Snow, Santa Claus and that horrible sweater your grandmother gives you are great and all, but there is one aspect of this holiday season that I love the most.

Lists!

From "Greatest Games" to "Top 10 Best Moments" and everything in between, I find sitting back with my Spider-Man mug filled with hot chocolate and wondering with each list what will be number ranked one has become one of my favorite holiday activities.

I have decided to continue my tradition of giving some sort of list to my dedicated readers in the last issue of the paper each fall semester. Last year I offered my favorite songs for the Christmas and holiday season. This year I have decided to give you my top five movies, both on DVD and in the theater, worthy of making time to go see during our much-needed break.

1) "The Wrestler" (Dec. 12) R

Mickey Rourke plays a washed up wrestling legend who is coming to grips with the fact that his life, along with his career, is in shambles. He attempts to find meaning in life beyond the squared circle.

This film is getting much buzz and is an early favorite to win "Best Picture" when the Academy Awards roll around. The movie is in limited release, so if you do live near a theater that is going to show it, count yourself as blessed and take the time to see it.

2) "Slaging in the Rain" (1952)

Before I begin, let me say that I hate musicals. I just never got the point of them and figured I never would.

That is, until I watched this masterful film that will make you want to put on your rain coat and galoshes, grab that special someone and dance and sing in a downpour.

If the film warmed the heart of this cynical movie viewer, it will do the same for you.

3) "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" (Dec. 25) PG-13

The story begins with the perfect cop, Nicholas Angel (Pegg), being sent to a small, quiet town due to his overachieving ways making the rest of the department look bad. But Angel, and his boneheaded partner Danny Butterman (Frost), soon learns that the town isn't as it seems as bullets, dead bodies and hilarity ensue.

4) "The Spirit" (Dec. 25) PG-13

Frank Miller (creator and co-director of "Sin City" and "300") takes the reins of his first film with his vision of comic book godfather Will Eisner's legendary character "The Spirit." Miller's green-screened style that was used on both of his previous movies, returns and it continues to look awesome. As a comic book geek, to me Miller's style is like watching a comic book in motion and it brings tears to my eyes. Miller is a legend in the comic book world and he is becoming one in the film world as well.

That's all folks. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from your friendly neighborhood feature editor.



Photo obtained from IGN.com

see Twilight, page 4

Breakfast

Continued from page 1

tunity for them to be served by the faculty and staff."

Lawson said that they cook the food but the staff and faculty do all the serving of the food, carrying to the tables, getting refills, etc.

He said the atmosphere is very relaxed and everyone seems to have a great time.

Coffee

Continued from page 1

the coffee bar and I would love for it to come from the college students," he said.

He said the shop will be open during student-friendly hours. It will open at 7 a.m. on Monday through Friday, and will close at either 10 or 11 p.m. every night of the week. The full schedule and the menu can be found online at www.steelwater.com.

The grand opening for Steelwater will be next Monday at 7 p.m.

Girls & Sports

By Justin Borus & Andrew Feinstein



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UOj Cm softbaB team S»gu two new plajrcn for

Asbleigh Roenker and Rachel Thompson have signed on to play with the Lady Oavs softball team starting in Fall 2009.

Roenker joins the Lady Cavs from Virginia Beach, where she was a pitcher for KempsvilleHighSchool.

She posted a 1.93 ERA last year with 13 walks.

She was voted MVP her junior year.

Thompson, who comes from Pbwel Valley High, has played catcher, pitcher, second and third baseman and outfielder.

For the past two years, she has posted better than a 300 batting average.

Head coach Tim Raby-Oentiy said both women will be assets to the team.

Hippeard voted Mid-Atlantic Ewt Othnshre Player of the Year

Senior Randy Hippeard finished his last year at UVa-Wise by being named the Mid-South Conference East Division Offensive Player of the Year.

Hippeard led the NAIA in passing yards (3,637), passing yards per game (330.6), passing touchdowns (38) and total offense (9,900).

He also holds every UVa-Wise career passing record and ranks second all-time in the NAIA for career touchdown passes with 111.

Killough places in top third of all runners at NAIA Cross Country Nationals

By Nancy Kamal
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Brittany Killough finished the cross country season by placing 94th in the NAIA National Championships held in Kenosha, Wis. on Nov. 22.

Killough finished with a time of 18:57.7 and placed in the top third of the 327 runners who competed.

"I was definitely excited to finish in the top third among the nation's most elite runners," Killough said.

Killough said her drive during the race was her desire to represent the UVa-Wise team and college to the best of her ability.

Despite just finishing his season, Killough is looking forward to spring track and the cross country season next fall.

"Just as any other sport, we end and another kick starts," she said. "It's now time to start training for spring track."

By Brittany Wiehtendahl
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The Cav's men's basketball team lost to top ranked Bluefield College 84-71 Wednesday-suffering their eighth straight loss of the season.

Head coach Lee Clary said that while the men lost, the effort was tremendous and that the team is getting better and better.

Junior Pance Kecevalso said that the team is improving.

"We're making progress game to game and everyone gave 110 percent," he said.

Clary said that along with Keceval's key players in the Bluefield game included sophomore Adam Hood and Robert Amis, freshman Josh Jordan and senior Travis Brannon.

Keceval connected on five three-pointers and ended the night with 19 points.

Hood was statistically the best of the night, making 7 of 10 from the court, including four triples, for a total of 22 points. At the beginning of the game, Hood gave the Cavs a quick lead with back-to-back three pointers.

The Cavs were shorthanded during the game, with sophomore Kevin Peiry injured.

Clark attributed the loss mainly to the lack of men

"We're shorthanded right now," he said. "We need more numbers."

Despite the lack of players available, Clark said he is confident that once the team is up to a full squad, the team will improve.

"Once we get to a full squad, we'll be good [tomorrow]," he said.

The Cavs next play at Montreat tomorrow. Clark said that if the team puts forth another "tremendous effort," they will put themselves in the position to win.

For now, Keceval said he is not giving up hope.

"I believe in this team," he said.

Photo by Jessica Price

Above: Sophomore Adam Hood attempts a layup during the Dec. 3 game against Bluefield College. The Cavs lost the game 84-71. Hood led the Cavs with 22 points.

Left: Senior Eric Swords pushes past a Bluefield player during the Dec. 3 game. The loss was the eighth for the Cavs, bringing their record to 0-5.

Wednesday night as I sat in the newspaper office, contemplating what my column was going to be about this week, one topic came to me in the form of a fellow student.

He came into the office and asked me to write an article about a new set of rules that have just been implemented for our fans to follow when watching college games.

In case you haven't been down by the gym to see them, the new

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rules are as follows; 1) Cheer loudly and proudly for your team, not against the visitor; 2) No profanity, vulgarity, racist or sexist remarks; 3) No personal remarks towards players, coaches or officials; 4) Show that you know the game; 5) Stay away from the playing area and team benches and 6) Zero tolerance for alcohol or drug use at all contests.

At the end of the sign, there is a mention of the rules are the AAC Spectator Code of Conduct.

While I agree with many of the rules, I think some of them are odd and impossible to enforce.

Let's start with number one. While I agree that visiting teams shouldn't be treated harshly, a big part of watching sports is yelling at the opposing teams.

That is sports—getting riled up. Number two, I completely agree with. Under no circumstances should profanity, racist or sexist remarks be yelled during games.

I feel the same way about number three. I do about number four. While it is inevitable to be humiliated or yelled at, it happens.

Referees get yelled at all the time, and I doubt that a sign hanging on the door to the gym will do anything.

Number four is the main one. I have an issue with.

What does it mean to "show that you know the game?" How does one go about doing that? It is a venture to say that not a lot of people know how to either.

So, while these rules are a great idea, and they seem to be attempting to make everyone better spectators, my guess is that they will have no effect on how the audience acts at games.

Sports fans are sports fans, and any attempt to change them will be futile, and basically not worth the effort.

Lady Cavs basketball team earns third win of season over Bluefield

By Kacie Jessee
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The Lady Cavs basketball team took home its third victory of the season on Wednesday Dec. 3 over Bluefield College, bringing the team's record to 3-7.

The team rallied back during the second period to defeat the Lady Rams, 71-66.

"It was a hard fought game," head coach Rachel Clay-Keohane said. "Bluefield is a tough in-state team."

The Lady Cavs struggled with rebounding the ball at the start of the game, but by the beginning of the second half it began to pick up.

"We can rebound in spurts, but we need to work on dominating the whole game," Clay-Keohane said.

Freshman Amber Carter made all three of her final free throws to lock up the win. Fellow freshman Lauren Jerwe provided the Lady Cavs with 12

rebounds. Another young member that played well was freshman Kristin Mullins. She posted 18 points for the night.

Junior Brittney Maxwell continued her strong shooting performance with 16 points overall.

The win came after two straight losses on the road to Milligan College and Eastern Mennonite University.

"With young players [road losses] are normal," Clay Keohane said. They have to learn how to play on the road."

Despite just having three wins on the season, the Lady Cavs are not giving up hope for a successful year.

"We're very, very young," assistant coach Doug Carter said. "So we're just riding the roller coaster of ups and downs right now."

The Lady Cavs will have a chance to prove their skills on the road when they face Montreat College tomorrow at 5:30 p.m.

Photo by Jessica Price
Senior Amber Carter made all three of her final free throws to lock up a Bluefield player during the Dec. 3 game. The Lady Cavs won the game 71-66.