

Inside



Two students host a local radio show on Friday nights. Find out who they are and what they play on page 2.



Uva-Wise Students traveled abroad to both Israel and India over break. Read their stories on pages 4 and 5.



The men's and women's basketball teams continued playing over the break. Get the scoop on page 8.

Upcoming

Blood drive planned

Donate the gift of life in Cantrell Hall from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Jan. 25. Contact Josh Justice at jv8e@uvawise.edu for more information.

Room swap

Residence hall room changes begin Jan. 24. Contact residence life staff for more information.

Student Leader Luncheon

The SGA Student Leader Appreciation Luncheon will be held in Cantrell Hall at 12 p.m. on Jan. 26.

Weather

Friday



22°F / 17°F

Saturday



31°F / 22°F

Sunday



31°F / 25°F

Weather courtesy of www.weather.com

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Fire alarms installed in halls

By Allie Robinson
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Contractors installed new fire alarm systems in Asbury and Thompson halls over winter break after the college was told by the Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office in October that the systems at the time vio-

lated state standards.

The purchase and installation of the SimplexGrinnell alarm system came at a cost of just under \$30,000, according to Steve McCoy, the college's chief of police and director of public safety.

Officials tested the system last week to make sure residents could hear the new alarms.

"I don't think they should have any problem hearing it now," said John McCormick, a state fire marshal.

McCormick was on campus Tuesday morning to spot check alarms, make sure they were loud enough and sign off that the system was working properly.

McCormick, McCoy, Sim-

plexGrinnell employees and Uva-Wise maintenance staff tested the alarms with the power on, and also checked the batteries in the alarms. The alarms passed inspection, but the system was not fully certified as of Wednesday, when a final check was scheduled to be completed.

The new system is not only

see Alarms, page 2



Snow day, snow play



Photos by Jordan Fifer

Top: Freshmen Isaac Minor (left) and Paul Melshen build an igloo Jan. 12. on the Lawn by the Lake. Classes were canceled due to snow. Bottom: Students play football in the snow Jan. 12 on the Lawn by the Lake.

Student charged in prank Chancellor in canoe retrieves bear

By Jordan Fifer
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The polar bear in a chair appeared in the early morning hours of Jan. 13.

The stuffed animal, positioned in the middle of the frozen campus lake, sat in a camping chair and had a cigar in its mouth. A can of Pabst Blue Ribbon beer was in one of the chair's side pockets.

Many students woke up to the prank and found it amusing.

"I thought it was awesome," said Maegan Smith, a freshman psychology major. "I think it was very brave."

But Chancellor David Prior grew up ice fishing in the chilly tundra of northern Michigan. When he saw the bear sitting idle in the middle of the frozen lake last week, his first thought was safety.

"I thought the bear looked very cute," he said. "But ... with the weather warming, I thought it was a safety risk."

see Bear, page 4



Residence life hire starts

By Allie Robinson
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A pirate. Darth Tater. A cook. And, of course, the original.

Step into Chris Owens' office, and the first thing you might notice are the Mr. Potato Head toys. They line his desk and sit atop bookshelves like old friends.

The new assistant director of residence life, who started working at the college Jan. 3, said he has been collecting them for the past few years, beginning at Eastern Kentucky University, where he worked as a residence hall coordinator, a position he held

until he moved to Wise in December.

"I like my office to be inviting so I just collect them," he said of the Mr. Potato Head figurines. "A lot of people seem to have their favorites ... my favorite is the original."

Owens' primary duties are to supervise the college's 32 resident advisers and serve as the faculty adviser for the National Residence Hall Honorary.

"I work with a great group of people," he said. "We have a good time and I think we're a great team."

Owens, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at EKU before working there three years, said he decided to make

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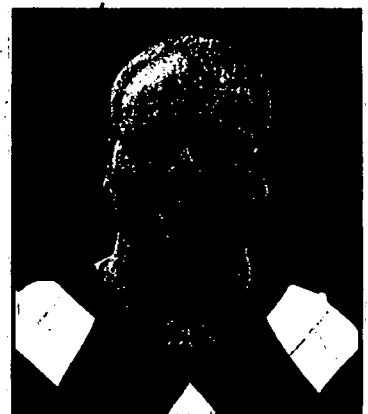


Photo by Jordan Fifer

Chris Owens, the new assistant director of residence life, started at the college earlier this month.

Annual march honors King

By Cameron Parsons
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Students, faculty and community members honored Martin Luther King Jr. Monday with a candlelight march and a program celebrating his life.

The UVA-Wise Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative March has been a tradition at UVA-Wise since 1996, when Clinch Valley College director of resi-

see King, page 5

Classes shuffled due to illnesses

By Allie Robinson
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Classes in political science and math have been shuffled around this semester due to faculty illnesses.

Eric Smith, assistant professor of political science, and Jennifer Wilson, assistant professor of mathematics, have both had to alter their course loads this semester after being diagnosed with illnesses.

Smith found out in late December that he has aplastic anemia, a condition in which the body doesn't pro-

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