

THE ORACLE

Celebrating 100 years of Tech's primary news source

SOLO Event Headlines 2 Chainz



PHOTOS BY LILLY DAVIS

This year's spring SOLO concert featured 2 chainz and took place in the Hooper Eblen Center on March 27, 2024. Young Nudy was scheduled to make an appearance as well, but was unable to turn up to the concert.

Near-total eclipse viewing at Centennial Plaza



PHOTO BY LILLY DAVIS

Jaden Mullins (right) and Laramie Eisetein give a "wings-up" as they view the eclipse on the Plaza.

Telehealth provided abortions increased nearly 400% since Roe v. Wade overturn

Micah Jackson
DISTRIBUTION
MANAGER

A monumental court decision leads to a spike in Telehealth abortions following the overturning of Roe vs. Wade in late July 2022. Between April 2022 and September 2023, Telehealth, services provided by remote consultation, noticed a stark rise in the use of their abortion services after the overturning of Roe v. Wade in late June of 2022.

The Society of Family Planning found that there were a total of 3,650 Telehealth abortions in April 2022 among all states. A year after the overturning of Roe vs. Wade, there were 7,110 Telehealth abortions, twice as much as the numbers from April 2022. This number doubles the very next month. By July 2023 this number skyrocketed to 14,110 abortions. August 2023 sees 14,060 Telehealth abortions and September 2023 notices a slight drop to 13,770 Telehealth abortions.

Roe v. Wade is a court ruling made back in 1973 legalizing abortion up to a certain point in a woman's pregnancy. This decision set a precedence which has lasted for the past 50 years. Recently this court ruling has been overturned after the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization.

This gives the power to legalize abortions back into the hands of the states. As a result, ten states have completely banned abortions altogether, including Tennessee. The state of Wisconsin, however, witnessed a 15 month long period of legal uncertainty. They banned abortions during this time period and re-legalized them by September 2023.

Telehealth offers two options for their abortion services, the first being an abortion pill they can deliver via the mail or hand to you in person and the other being an operation they provide at an on-site clinic. As stated on the AbortionFinder website regarding information about Telehealth, it's legal to travel outside of your state to get the abortion services you need, especially if these services aren't available to someone locally.

According to Forbes, Professor Alison Norris stated, "We can't let the overall consistent number of abortions nationally obscure the incredible unmet need and disastrous impact of abortion bans on people who already have the least access."

"What we know is that telehealth abortions within the health care system are extremely safe and effective. The safety and effectiveness rates are the same as in-clinic care and in-person See **ABORTION** on page 4

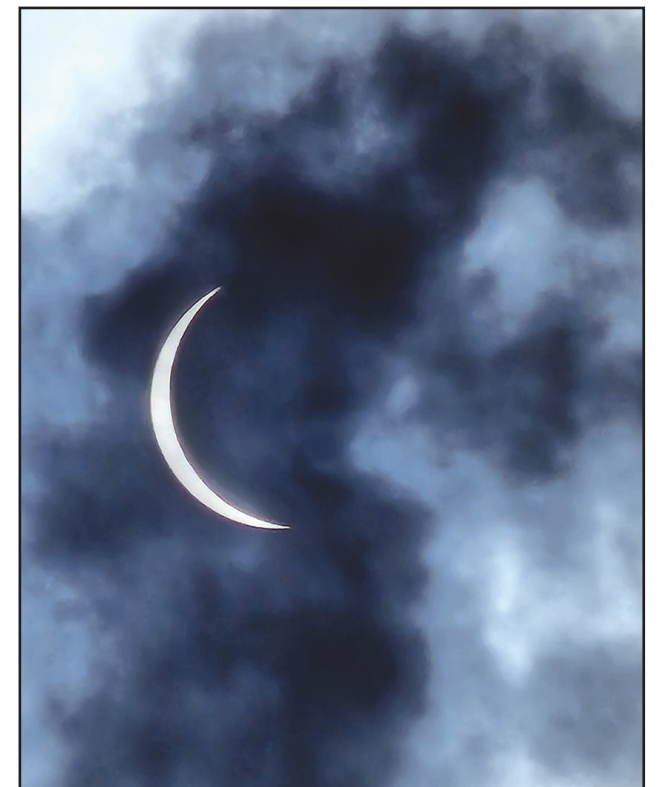


PHOTO BY MEGAN REAGAN

April 8, 2024 Cookeville was able to get a near-total view of the eclipse. Many gathered for the rare view.



PHOTO BY LILLY DAVIS

Aiden Eisenga attempts to capture a picture of the eclipse on his phone through his glasses.

Overdoses increases 86% in state; students also take notice

McKenzie Hughes
REPORTER

According to the Tennessee Health Department, there has been an 86% increase in drug overdoses in Tennessee from 2016-2020.

There were 3,032 drug overdoses in Tennessee in 2020 which resulted in death. Factors including age, sex and drug type are contributing to an incline in overdose deaths.

"I have definitely seen an increase in drug usage, specifically vaping among college students in the past two years I have been in college," Brody Boyd, a Tech sophomore said. "I did not notice it in high school like I do now, and I think it is very concerning seeing so many people start vaping because it can lead to other drugs."

From 2016-2020, opioid and fentanyl overdoses alone increased by 3,050 deaths in Tennessee, which are the leading drugs causing fatal overdoses.

According to the Tennessee Department of Health, "Deaths involving opioids identified as pain relievers (i.e., those typically obtained through a prescription) have increased slightly after several years of decline, while deaths involving heroin have decreased slightly after several years of increase."

"Opioids have consistently played a role in drug overdose deaths in Tennessee and were involved in 79% of overdose deaths in 2020," the Tennessee Department of Health said.

According to the World Health Organization, opioid overdoses have seen an increase

as the drugs are readily available and appearing on illicit drug markets. Fentanyl is another contributing factor to drug overdoses as drug dealers could be adding fentanyl to other drugs to increase potency.

Drug overdoses lean toward being male dominant as 1,997 males died of overdose in 2020 compared to the 1,035 females who died from overdose in 2020.

According to the National Institutes of Health, men are more likely to overdose on drugs because men have a higher tendency to experiment with drugs.

"Males have made up an increasing proportion of overdose deaths over the past five years, and they now account for approximately two-thirds of all overdose deaths. The number of males who died of a drug overdose See **OVERDOSES** on page 4



Celebrate with us
Tech Pride Room
April 13
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

THE ORACLE
100th Anniversary!

Register to attend!
<https://www.tntech.edu/univadv/cac/registration-oracle100th.php>



Meals within a Mile

Coming Home to Grandma's

Callie Smith
SPORTS EDITOR

Missing home style breakfast? Only a mile from campus awaits Grandma's Pancake House. You will feel like you are at grandma's again with large portions and friendly service.

The restaurant is breakfast-based and is open between the hours of 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. with their busiest times being around brunch at 10 a.m. The house menu consists of fluffy omelets, crepes, waffles and their speciality: pancakes.

The omelets at Grandma's Pancake House are as big as you would ever dream. This fluffy egg houses anything you prefer. The vegetarian omelet holds fresh broccoli, onions, mushrooms, tomatoes and green peppers. The Santa Fe omelet contains onions, tomatoes, jalapeno and salsa. The Irish omelet carries corned beef hash, potatoes and onions. None of those omelets sound appealing? Maybe the mushroom, ham or freshly sauteed spinach omelet is more your style.

Grandma's Pancake House offers a diverse selection of Crepes. Feeling Orient food? Try the Mandarin Crepe with mandarin orange segments dusted with powdered sugar. How about a Kijafa cherry crepe? This crepe is filled with red pitted cherries simmered in Kijafa wine. Worry not, you can still enjoy a classic crepe such as the French Crepe rolled with fresh strawberries. Or the Apple Crepe, filled with apples, pecans, sour cream, Cointreau and cinnamon sugar, served with an apple syrup.

Maybe you prefer waffles? That's ok, there's a place for you here too. Grandma's Pancake House also provides waffles that can be covered in toppings like strawberries, blueberries, apple, pecans, bacon or coconut.

Finally, the star of the show – pancakes. You name it, it is a pancake at Grandma's pancake house. From potato pancakes to fruity choices like banana, blueberry, strawberry or Hawaiian to other sweet tastes like chocolate chip, coconut and maple – the possible flavors are endless. If these don't fit your taste, there are still a few lunch options available for the brunch crowd.

Grandma's Pancake House gives Tech students a homey place to enjoy a tasteful brunch that will not break the bank. With their wide menu, people can come back again and again and enjoy something new each time.

Diving deeper into mental health and illness

Ben Wishart
JUNIOR EDITOR

Mental health is one of the most crucial and necessary attributes of which people ought to be more aware, especially amongst themselves. Yes, Mental Health Awareness Month is next month, but by no means does that warrant mental health only be observed, studied or given the light of day for only one month out of the year.

Mental health is not an easily definable term or condition that can be put into one clearly visible and explainable box for one person, rather it is a concept that must be analyzed by the individual to determine what mental health might look like to them. Mental health is also a constantly fluctuating state of mind that can change at any point in time based on whatever events may be conspiring at times in a person's life.

Mental health includes, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), "...our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act, and helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices."

People often treat mental health as one of the more sensitive topics of conversation to exist today, seeing as the delicate nature of mental illness can be triggering for those afflicted with such. Mental illnesses generally stem from two broad categories, Any Mental Illness (AMI) and Serious Mental Illness (SMI).

AMI, according to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), is defined as, "a mental, behavioral, or emotional disorder. AMI can vary in impact, ranging from no impairment to mild, moderate, and even severe impairment." They proceed on to define SMI as, "a mental, behav-

ioral, or emotional disorder resulting in serious functional impairment, which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities." The clearest difference between AMI and SMI is the severity of which a mental illness may affect or disable cognitive or functional ability.

Mental illnesses are very common in the United States, according to the NIMH, more than one in five adults suffer from some form of mental illness, whether it be AMI or SMI. In 2021, over 57.8 million people were noted to have been afflicted with a mental illness in the United States.

Thankfully, research into mental health and mental illness is plentiful and is only continuing to grow. The more cases of mental health anomalies and mental illnesses which present themselves, the more research will be conducted into assisting people in getting whatever help they may need.

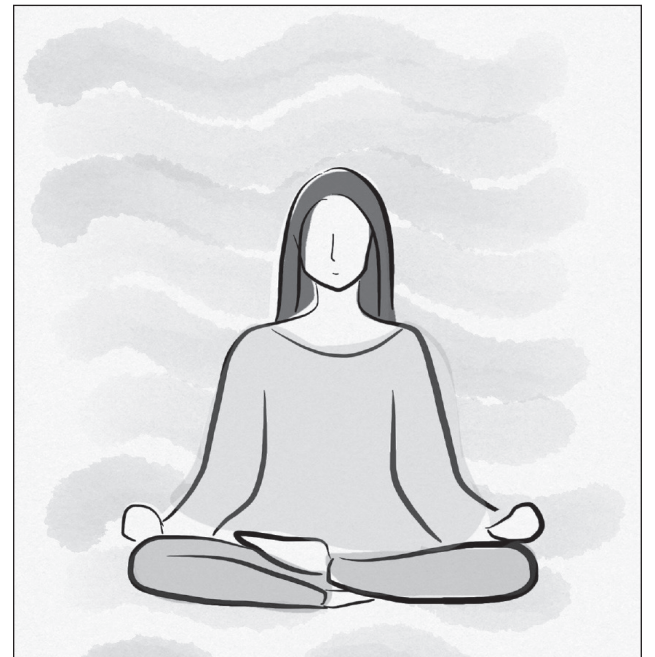


PHOTO PROVIDED BY PIXABAY
Mental Health continues to be a crucial topic of study, and is incredibly important to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

Student On The Street

Brian Carpenter
PHOTO EDITOR



Aaron Tuk
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
Junior

What do you do to maintain good mental health?

"I keep in mind the verse Psalm 73:26 to keep my mind at ease and know I have something greater than myself to trust in."



Meredith Hall
MATHEMATICS
Graduate Studies

"Journaling, reading my Bible, and eating shredded cheese out of the bag."



Parker Lovin
COMPUTER SCIENCE
Junior

"Confiding in other guys in my Bible study group... Those guys have really helped with my self-esteem, and I am grateful to God for the opportunity to lean on them"

Your Campus Representatives

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Chance Hale
Student Body President
SGAPresident@tntech.edu

Claire Myers
Vice President
SGAVicePres@tntech.edu

Lindsey Taylor
Treasurer
SGATreasurer@tntech.edu

Jeb MacLennan
Secretary
SGASecretary@tntech.edu

FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President
Michael Allen
Mathematics
mallen@tntech.edu
931-372-3594

President-Elect
Mustafa Rajabali
Mathematics
mrajabali@tntech.edu
931-372-3044

Past President
Lori Maxwell
Sociology & Political Science
lmaxwell@tntech.edu
931-372-3683

Secretary
Holly Mills
Library & Learning Assistance
hcmills@tntech.edu
931-372-3544

The Oracle

Follow Us



Contact Us

Newsroom:
(931) 372-3285
tntechoracle@gmail.com

Advertising:
(931) 372-3031
ttuoracleleads@gmail.com

Visit our website: tntechoracle.com

Voice Your Opinion

The Oracle encourages readers to write letters and commentaries on topics of interest. A few guidelines:

Letters should not exceed 300 words. Commentaries should not exceed 500 words and include a picture of the writer.

Originality is required, no plagiarism. For verification, letters and commentaries must include your name, email, hometown and classification or title.

Letters may not run every edition due to space. The Oracle reserves the right to edit for style, grammar, length and clarity.

Submissions must be sent to tntechoracle@gmail.com and received by 3 p.m. the Wednesday before publication.



Spring Publication Dates

April 23

Find an error? Contact the editors:

Bee Goodman bmgoodman43@tntech.edu

Oracle Staff

Managing Editor.....Bee Goodman
Jr. Editor/Reporter.....Ben Wishart
Copy Editor.....Gus Creter
Sports Editor..... Callie Smith
Social Media/Online Editor.....Harrison Conder
Photo Editor.....Brian Carpenter
Photographer.....Lilly Davis
Photographer.....Noah Mears
Distribution Manager.....Micah Jackson
Faculty AdviserTeddy Burch

News content and photographs for The Oracle are provided by The Oracle staff, JOUR 2220, JOUR 3370, JOUR 4820, and JOUR 4930.

Culture

Campus Events

Wednesday, April 10

Sexual Assault Support Chain Event - 11 a.m.-2 p.m. - RUC Lobby

Softball Game - 5 p.m.

Reslife Glow Rave - 6 p.m. -11 p.m. - Multipurpose Room

Horn Choir Concert - 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - BFA

Thursday, April 11

The Clothesline Project - 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. - Multipurpose Room

Sexual Assault Awareness Event: Missing Murdered Indigenous Women - 11 a. m.- 1 p.m. - Plaza

National Robotics Week Showcase - 11 a. m. - 1 p.m. - Plaza

Sophomore Recital: Robert Edgington, percussion - 7:30 p.m - 8:30 p.m. - BFA

Loteria Night - 8 p.m -10 p.m. - Tech Pride Room

Saturday, April 13

Opera & Musical Theatre Scenes Concert 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. - BFA

Lambda Prom - Saturday, 5 p.m. -9 p.m. - Tech Pride Room

Senior Recital: Jacob Miller, trumpet - 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. - BFA

Saturday, April 14

Cumberland Quintet Concert - 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m - BFA

Tennis Match - 2 p.m.

Saxophone Studio Concert - 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 16

Plants Rock! Event - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Quad

Women in Leadership Luncheon - 12 p.m - 1:30 p.m. - Tech Pride Room

Transition Workshop #2 - Looking Ahead 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. - Multipurpose Room

Wednesday, April 17

Concert: Tech Student Jazz Ensembles 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. - BFA

Earth Day Celebration - 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Plaza

Thursday, April 18

Earth Day Celebration - . 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Plaza

EDM Techtopia - 6 p.m. -11 p.m. Multipurpose Room

Friday, April 19

Financial Wellness Session 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. - Bell Hall 260

Baseball Game - 6 p.m.

Concert: Double Reed Ensembles - 7:30 p.m - 8:30 p.m. - BFA

Saturday, April 20

Double Reed Forum - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - BFA

Center Stage Guest Artist: Nani Agbeli, Drum and Dance - 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m - BFA

Sunday, April 21

Death by Chocolate Event 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Celebration of Excellence - 3:30 p.m - 6:00 p.m. - Multi-Purpose Room

Spring Plant Sale - 9 a.m.- 2:30

Musical Monograph

Country music and how Beyoncé broke the mold

From gaining her star-status in the R&B supergroup Destiny’s Child to her own stellar solo catalog, Beyoncé has spent most of her adult life being one of the most famous humans alive.



Gus Creter
COPY EDITOR

“Genres are a funny little concept... In theory they have a simple definition that’s easy to understand but in practice, well, come may feel confined,” Linda Martell at the end of “Daughter” sings. Remember this.

Beyoncé has spent the last three decades as one of the most recognizable, era-defining musicians of her time. From gaining her star-status in the R&B supergroup Destiny’s Child to her own stellar solo catalog, Beyoncé has spent most of her adult life being one of the most famous humans alive.

In 2021, Beyoncé released her career-defining record *RENAISSANCE*, the first album in a new trilogy and a reclamation of the sounds of house and dance music, a genre deeply rooted in black culture. The second record *COWBOY CARTER*, released March 29, follows the same ideology.

Modern country charts may convince you that “country music” is a white man’s genre, but this could not be farther from the truth. Country music, originally dubbed “hillbilly music” was first based around the banjo, an instrument adapted from the West-African instrument called the Akonting.

When enslaved individuals from Africa were forced to America, the instrument came with. For 400 years, enslaved people would make music, using the Akonting and eventually the banjo.

Banjos were introduced to a white audience in the 1850s through offensive minstrel shows, with white “performers” wearing blackface and portraying the black people they are playing as lazy or stupid. This racist, deplorable form of performance led to white audiences loving the sound, hence the term “hillbilly music.”

By World War I, country music had been sold as the “white man’s” genre, once again revising the genre’s history. In fact,

only three black musicians have been inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame: Charley Pride, Deford Bailey and Ray Charles.

Now some may ask why this matters in a discussion about Beyoncé, and it is because Beyoncé, despite being known for her pop and R&B bops, has never allowed herself to be confined by race, gender or genre.

COWBOY CARTER, while framed as a country album of sorts, is above all else a Beyoncé album, and in line with *RENAISSANCE*, the quality is through the roof.

There is not too much to say about this album, personally. I loved both “16 CARRIAGES” and “TEXAS HOLD ‘EM” as singles for the personality and excellent vocal performances, and they both fit into the album beautifully – the latter being led into by country legend, Willie Nelson.

Nelson is not the only recognizable voice on the album, with additional interludes from Dolly Parton and Linda Martell, the first commercially successful black woman in the field of country music. Beyoncé also teams up with Miley Cyrus, showing incredible harmonic chemistry on “II MOST WANTED,” as well as singing a surprisingly well-done ballad alongside Post Malone on “LEVI’S JEANS.”

My favorite moments on the album are when Beyoncé eloquently fuses country stylings with other genres. The opener “AMERICAN REQUIEM” is an epic multi-phased intro to the album’s concept, while tracks like “YA YA” and “II HANDS II HEAVEN” are amongst my favorite tracks Beyoncé has ever made, showing a lack of regard for traditional sound or song structure and just performing with all her might.

The most true-blue country tracks like “JUST FOR FUN” and “DAUGHTER” are all-around beautiful, with the occasional rap track such as “SPAGHETTII” and “TYRANT,” while a little jarring on first listen, have some of the most potent energy in the whole tracklist.

Not every album requires an understanding of its context to be enjoyable, but when an album releases that does challenge the societal norm of popular music, it can be an important stepping stone for listeners – Beyoncé’s “COWBOY CARTER” is one of those important albums.

Spring has sprung



PHOTO BY LILLY DAVIS

Top: Ethon Boyles, Ella Cutshall, Bryson Lee and Emma Anderson enjoy the outside in hammocks. Bottom: Ashton Huddleston, Kacey Elliot, Tristan Cecil and Leander Lewis do classwork outside.

Firearm-related deaths rates remain alarmingly high

Gus Creter
COPY EDITOR

Gun violence continues to be a persistent problem in the state of Tennessee, with recent data shedding light on the severity of the issue within its borders.

According to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI), firearm-related deaths have remained alarmingly high in the state, with firearm deaths being one of the highest causes.

Jack Siegers, a sophomore computer science major, was one of many students to receive the alarming warning regarding a potential active shooter on campus in February. "At first I was confused and I thought it was a test, but when the second notification came through I was concerned."

In 2022, Tennessee recorded 751 firearm-related deaths, encompassing homicides, suicides, and accidental shootings.

Nationwide, the Gun Violence Archive reported 36,464 injuries, as well as 43,124 all encompassing firearm-related deaths in 2023 alone. Within Tennessee, these statistics reflect a troubling pattern of gun-related incidents, prompting calls for a change to be made.

In 2021, The Sycamore Institute reported gunfire being the tenth leading cause for death in the state of Tennessee, being the leading cause of those aged one to 18. Tennessee also ranked the 11th highest for firearm death rates.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) offer further insights into the dynamics of gun violence in Tennessee. As per their most recent data from 2021, for every 100,000 Tennesseans, there are 22.8 deaths due to firearms.

"More strict gun laws need to be enacted to solve this problem," Siegers said. "I also think the campus could hold informative sessions about the dangers of gun violence, as well as listening to the young people experiencing this issue."

One significant factor contributing to the prevalence of gun violence in Tennessee is the accessibility of firearms. The state's lenient gun laws, including provisions for open carry without a permit, contribute to an environment where firearms can be readily available for anyone with an adult ID. This accessibility exacerbates the risk of gun-related incidents, prompting calls for



PHOTO PROVIDED BY ADOBE STOCK
Tennessee firearm death remain high, in 2022 the state recorded 751 firearm-related deaths including homicides, suicides and accidental shootings. Nationwide, the Gun Violence Archive reported 36,464 injuries, as well as 43,124 all encompassing firearm-related deaths in 2023 alone.

legislative reforms.

Socioeconomic disparities also intersect with the issue of gun violence in Tennessee. Poverty, lack of access to education, and limited economic opportunities contribute to a cycle of violence in many communities across the state and country. Addressing these underlying factors is essential for fostering safer environments and reducing the risk of gun-related tragedies.

Efforts to combat gun violence in Tennessee require a multifaceted approach, encompassing legislative reforms, community engagement, and targeted interventions. Implementing universal background checks, enforcing waiting periods for firearm purchases, and advocating for red flag laws are among the measures being considered to enhance public safety.

Business owner and Cookeville local Ryan Good saw a different reason as to why gun violence has increased in the state.

"I grew up around guns... and when I was a kid we never really worried about shootings. There is no reason why young people should have to worry about a gun going off on campus or anywhere else," Good said.

"The only way to ensure these rates go down is through better mental care."

Investing in mental health services and trauma-informed care is crucial for addressing the root causes of violence. By providing support and resources to individuals at risk, Tennessee can mitigate the risk of gun-related incidents and promote holistic well-being within its communities.

Education and awareness play an important role in fostering responsible gun ownership and promoting safe storage practices. Empowering individuals with the knowledge and skills to handle firearms responsibly can help prevent accidents and unauthorized use, thereby reducing the incidence of gun-related injuries and deaths.

Addressing gun violence in Tennessee requires a collaborative effort from those making policies, community leaders, stakeholders across sectors and you, the reader, speaking out. Through listening to its citizens and addressing the problem head-on, Tennessee can make strides toward building safer and more resilient communities for all its residents.

Consumption of gasoline increases to 135 billion gallons

Lawson Tidwell
REPORTER

In 2022, the U.S. produced a combined total of 3.1 billion gallons of renewable biodiesel, according to the United States Department of Agriculture.

While an impressive number, this cannot quite challenge the staggering amount of gasoline the U.S. consumes per year. The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that in 2022 alone, Americans used around 135 billion gallons of gasoline. This statistic speaks to a greater call across the United States for renewable energy, particularly as a replacement for non-renewable oil, gas, and diesel fuel.

Jose de la Cruz, a student in Pittsburgh, PA, said "I think it's awesome, fossil fuels aren't exactly ideal for powering our country in the future."

Liam White, an apprentice welder in Pleasant View, Tennessee, said "That's a lot of diesel, makes me feel a lot better about the future."

Cruz's concerns about fossil fuels are among a growing voice of U.S. citizens calling for renewable energy initiatives. FairPlanet, a global non-profit organization focused on human rights and sustainable development initiatives, projects that we will deplete our reserves of fossil fuels in only 47 years.

With this in mind, worries have developed among the population of the U.S. and other countries as to how to acquire enough fuel to sustain its current usage. Only recently have these concerns begun to be addressed, however.

Since 1992, the number of fuel stations carrying biodiesel

has grown to 1,700. The number of stations carrying E85, a fuel composed of 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline, rose from two to 4,495.

The green initiatives behind this increased production are still in development, and remain somewhat expensive. Last year Ethanol was priced at \$3.05 per gallon, while gasoline averaged \$2.98 per gallon. It is necessary to mention, despite yearly fluctuations, the overall trend for gasoline is rising prices. This price hiking will become more extreme as stockpiles deplete, increasing resource scarcity exponentially over time.

Despite the increased cost, these alternative fuels are necessary for preparing the U.S. for when non-renewable resources deplete. An increase in ethanol and biodiesel production will be

necessary for the U.S. to continue to sustain itself.

There is still a long road ahead for alternative fuels, but the numbers are promising. With U.S. ethanol and biodiesel production on the rise, as well as other countries turning to nuclear, solar and wind power, renewable energy may be more viable than previously anticipated.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY PIXABAY
Since 1992, the number of biodiesel stations has increased to 1,700. There is still a long way to go, but alternative fueling efforts are still ongoing.

Overdose cont. from page 1

increased 48% between 2019 and 2020," The Tennessee Department of Health stated. "Even though the number of females who died of a drug overdose remained relatively stable from 2017-2019, there was a 41% increase between 2019 and 2020."

The Tennessee Department of Health states, "From 2016 to 2020, overdose deaths have increased among all age groups over 18. Between 2019 and

2020, persons aged 35-44 years had the highest percent increase (61%) of drug overdose deaths among these age groups."

From 2019-2020, 350 of the drug overdoses in Tennessee were of people from ages 35-44. This shows a substantial amount of growth when compared to the 60 overdoses of people aged from 18-24 years old in 2019-2020.

Abortion cont. from pg. 1

care," Dr. Montida Fleming, with the virtual health care provider Hey Jane, told ABC news.

Fourteen states banned nearly all abortion services after the overturning of Roe V. Wade. Telehealth allows for a virtual connection to abortion resources, including locat-

ing on-site facilities.

Since the ban, restrictions have led to an increase of patients traveling out of state, with the largest influx of patients in California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York. Nearly 120,000 abortions could have happened in the 14

states banning the procedure.

Telehealth can also be used by those who do not have access to these types of services within their own state. Since the ruling, Telehealth has witnessed a 300 - 400% increase in their abortion services.

Sports

Tech splits two game series with Morehead State



PHOTO BY EMILY ARMSTRONG

Tech's Brooke Amann competes against Morehead State on March 29 on Tech campus. The Golden Eagles split two games winning the first 3-2 and losing the second 3-2.

Callie Smith
SPORTS EDITOR

Tech beach volleyball hosts on the sand for only its second year.

Beach volleyball was approved for its first official season in 2023. A year later the Golden Eagles continue to soar on the sand.

The Golden Eagles welcomed Morehead State March 29 and 30, and split the two game series

Tech took Friday's game with a 3-2 victory. It took six duals to satisfy the standings of the day.

The opening set was a Tech win established by Jazmine Yamilkoski and Katie DiRaimondo. The Tech two opened with a 21-15 winning set. The next resulted in a close fall behind, 21-19. Yamilkoski and DiRaimondo secured the final first victory point, 15-12.

Morehead State took the next two points, leaving Tech no choice but to win out or go home losing.

It wasn't looking hopeful as Tech fell in a close first set 21-18. Bella Powell and Madolyn Isringhausen stepped up for the Golden Eagles and secured wins in the next two sets, 22-20 and 15-8 to tie up the game.

Bringing the victory home for the Golden Eagles was MK Roberts and Skylar Boom. Tech won the first set 21-19. Then Morehead State had a turn winning

21-19. The ultimate win was down to a single set. Roberts and Boom took ownership of their home and secured Tech the win with a 15-13 final set win.

The next day in Cookeville was just as exciting, but the Golden Eagles fell short of the Eagles in final points, 3-2.

The opening match looked the same as the day before. After the Eagles taking the first set 14-21, Yamilkoski and DiRaimondo came back to win the last two, 21-15 and 16-14. Giving the Golden Eagles their first point and hope for the day.

The next three matches did not fall in favor for Tech. The Golden Eagles won each of the first sets, yet fell within three of winning the second. Morehead State took the tie breaker each time.

The final match of the day started with Morehead State claiming the first set, 21-16. Powell and Isringhausen finished off the last two sets of the day with wins of 21-15 and 15-3 to tally another point to the Golden Eagles.

The Golden Eagles are 5-9 overall in their second ever season and sit at 2-4 within the OVC conference.

Tech will travel to Clarksville for the Austin Peay tournament on April 9.

The real cost of Name, Image and Likeness

In year one of NIL, the estimated total amount of money athletes made was roughly \$917 million, and in 2023, the total amount landed around \$1.4 billion in total deals.

Tyler Rich
SPORTS REPORTER

Name, image and likeness, otherwise known as "NIL," has created an opportunity for athletes to make money at their respected university.

Some athletes are even making millions of dollars to play their sport.

According to the NCSA of college recruiting, "NIL refers to the rights of athletes to control and profit off of their name, image and likeness."

Athletes can make money off of a brand deal such as clothing or a type of shoe being released.

This gives players an opportunity to make money without going to the pros of getting a job to provide for their families.

Maaliya Owens, a Tech basketball player, is one of many college athletes to earn an NIL deal, with hers being



PHOTO BY PIXABAY

Name, Image, Likeness has changed the landscape of college athletics, with a total 1.4 billion dollars being paid to athletes in the second year of NIL. The University of Texas and the University of Texas A&M spent the most on NIL in 2023.

from East Spring Gulf: a market giving discounts on snacks and fuel. Owens said

"Mine was perfect for me because it gave me a way to help our team and program gain more local supporters while also encouraging the community to go to a locally owned convenience

store."

The growth of name, image, and likeness has exceeded tremendous heights, and is a relatively new concept in collegiate sports.

According to the Sports Business Journal, the average starting NIL deal was roughly \$1,300 dollars and in the

2023 season, the lowest average deal is roughly \$20,000 with popular athletes making even in the millions in revenue.

Lebron James's son Bronny James currently has the largest deal at \$4.9 million.

In year one of NIL, the estimated total

amount of money athletes made was roughly \$917 million, and in 2023, the total amount landed around \$1.4 billion in total deals.

One of the major selling points of an NIL deal comes from social media, where athletes can simply make a post to promote their image.

Social media covers most NIL deals where an athlete can use their following to their advantage. Athletes such as Olivia Dunne, Bronny James, and Angel Reese use their high following to promote their brand.

Tech basketball player Harley Paynter talked about the importance of NIL in the community. "I think when used correctly, NIL can be a great way to build a bridge between the community and the athlete outside of just their performance on the court."

The effects of name, images, and likeness have changed the game in collegiate sports.

Athletes have the opportunity to make money off of their own brand and are able to help their community in the process. Over time, this new style of brand deals will continue to grow and evolve.



All PHOTOS BY LILLY DAVIS
The SGA and The SOLO events committee hosted the SOLO concert March 27, 2024
at the Hooper Eblen Center featuring 2 Chainz.

