

THE ORACLE

Volume 108 | Issue 7

Free in single copy

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Gagged and gutted; Backdoor Playhouse closed for spring season



PHOTO BY BRIAN CARPENTER

The Backdoor Playhouse on January 26, 2024, it is home to many showcases and student talents. This semester the theatre program has closed its doors and many students are left stunned by the action.

Bee Goodman
MANAGING EDITOR

Many are left with heavy hearts and worries as the Backdoor Playhouse abruptly closes. The former Facilities Director James Alder addressed a telling message to students and staff.

Prior to the pandemic, the Backdoor Playhouse hosted numerous shows with gleaming success and followed into more recent shows such as the hit 2022 musical "Crawlspace," debuting at Tech, and the 2023 show of "Carrie: The Musical," which is one of the highest-grossing shows the program has seen in decades.

There is no doubt of the program's success. But a recent email sent out to some students and other Playhouse affiliates, reveals some possible reasons behind the closure.

Former facilities manager James Alder sent an email to many recipients that includes many students and faculty, in the email he states why he believed the theater program has been forced to cancel its Spring

2024 showcase. Alder states, "I promise that in this message I will not treat you the way some administrators have been, as children who need to be shielded from the truth."

Alder claims that the Dean of Fine Arts, Dr. Jennifer Shank, has purposely misled students to think that the closure cites the former technical director Bob Cardana's departure. Alder's message continues to explain a multitude of issues that have caused the abrupt dismissal in the fine arts college.

"I went to a socially distanced Q&A with President Oldham. While there, I interrogated him in front of everyone present regarding hazard pay for the RAs who were essentially overseeing the sick wards that their dorms had become. Also, I asked him whether he was going to offer a reimbursement to students after he unilaterally re-appropriated funds from Centerstage -The cultural events fund which YOU pay for directly with a surcharge tacked onto your tuition.- The president was visibly upset by this confrontation."

Additionally during this time, Matthew Melton, a non-traditional student, returned

to campus and began volunteering with the Backdoor Playhouse. Melton is said to have caused many disturbances among the program, Alder confesses, "He repeatedly offered students Kentucky Gentlemen bourbon. I still have a bottle that I confiscated from him at the time."

Melton was also said to have forced a non-consensual kiss onto a student stagehand, as well as causing many to feel uncomfortable in his presence at the time. Melton is still attending classes at the playhouse as a theatre education major.

In the fall of 2022 a video circulated online of a drag performance at the Playhouse featuring a child attending with their parents, giving cash to an on-stage, fully clothed performer, which caused national backlash. University President Phil Oldham stated on social media that he found the ordeal "deeply disturbing."

Alder recounts the event saying, "He placed a target on their backs at the very moment when the most odious, reactionary psychopaths were harassing them with

See **THEATER** on page 3

HVAC leak causes damage in the RUC over the snow break

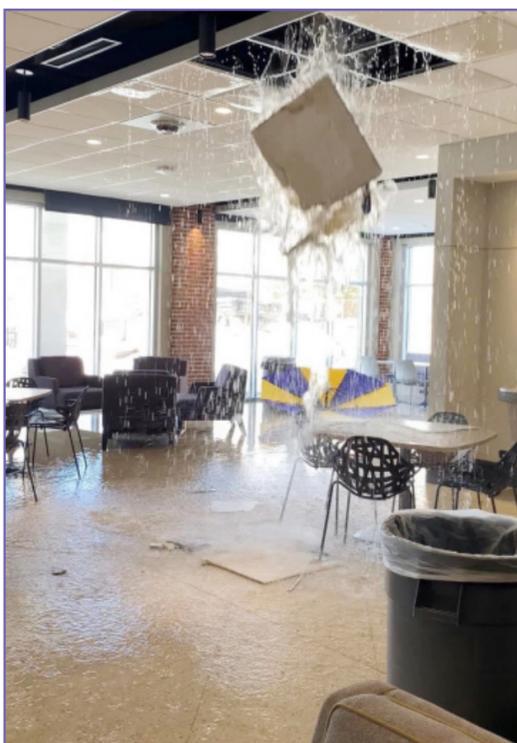


PHOTO BY VICTOR KLINE

A tile falls due to leaking from an HVAC system in the RUC on January 17, 2024.

McKenzie Hughes
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

A heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system malfunction in the first floor of the RUC caused a surge of water to flow from the ceiling on Jan. 17.

"We were over at the Chick-Fil-A and we were doing inventory then we heard something running, and when we looked it was really bad," Dawn Vaden, assistant retail director said. Vaden continues, "It was like a big waterfall coming down and then all of the tiles started dropping out of the ceiling."

"The addition to the RUC is separate from the rest of the building as far as the HVAC system goes," Daniel Warren, Associate Vice

President of Facilities and Business Services said. "Instead of having the centralized air handling units that are located in the penthouse of the main building it has what are called rooftop units sitting on the roof of the second floor."

"They are exposed to the elements more than our typical air handling units will be subjected to. Each mechanical piece of equipment has built in safety equipment associated with it," Warren continues. "For these rooftop units, they have what is called freezestat and it basically measures each inch of the coil that heats the air coming from the outside to keep everything warm inside the unit. But the freezestat didn't trip."

Warren explained further by stating, "I think when that happened, more outside air that was below freezing was introduced to the unit and that overcame the heating capacity of the preheat coil, and so it actually froze the coil, not the main..."

when it freezes it doesn't leak. It's not until it starts to thaw a little bit that the leaks present themselves."

"The coil leaked up on the rooftop and it actually didn't flow down the pipe, it went into the ductwork. The ductwork is a straight drop down from where the damage occurred," Warren explained.

At the time of the water intrusion, campus classes and offices were closed,

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Callie Smith gets a taste of Cookeville. Campus events calendar. Snow week gives Gus' guide to his favorite streams.

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Golden Eagle football introduces new head coach. Men and Women's basketball continues.

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Photo Story

A fresh look at the week of snow. Some beautiful winter scenes and how you spent time out of class.

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Meals within a Mile

Big flavor, small World Foods

Are you a student looking for restaurants within walking distance of campus? Here are some of my personal favorite “meals within a mile” of the college we call home.

My go-to off-campus lunch stop is found only 0.7 miles from the heart of Tech. Located at 22 N Cedar Avenue in Cookeville, Tennessee is World Foods. This locally owned restaurant serves as an international deli and pizzeria with foods from... you guessed it, all across the world.

Positioned amongst red bricks and green framed windows, World Foods markets itself as an “Easygoing market and deli offering assorted groceries plus sandwiches, gyros & pizza slices.”

From a falafel to lahmacun, pizza to greek salad, dolma to reuben sandwiches – there is something to satisfy every craving at this small, local eatery. Everything at World Foods is authentic and made from scratch. However, be prepared to take your meal to go. Seating in the restaurant is limited, and there have been times I have had no choice but to take my meal on the road.

World Foods is quick with service. Even at the busiest times, packed wall to wall without a seat in the house, my meal has always been prepared in less than ten minutes. These meals are hot, ready, and served with a smile from the kind staff.

My favorite meal, and what you will most likely find at my table on a weekday lunch break in between classes, is a slice of pizza with a craft soda. World Foods sells whole pies, with daily specials that can be purchased by the slice for a student’s convenience.

A wide variety of unique craft sodas such as sparkling lemonade, root beer, grape soda and many other beverages can be found along the back wall. With my 10% Tech student discount, I can have a lunch of a large slice of cheese pizza and a sparkling lemonade for right at \$5.00.

World Foods is a fast-paced, locally owned, affordable meal within a mile of Tech’s campus with a wide selection to satisfy your taste buds without anything getting old. There is always more to try at this small brick and mortar with a big menu and big hearted staff. For a good time and great food, grab your friends, make the walk, and raise a glass of craft soda to kick off the spring semester.

Is Temu worth the price? Malware and identity theft



GRAPHIC BY BEE GOODMAN
Temu is a chinese originated e-commerce app that deems dangerous. Cybersecurity experts urge you to delete.

Bee Goodman
 MANAGING EDITOR

The deals are unbelievable, perhaps too good to be true. Temu is raising red flags as its scams are coming to light.

You have probably seen the ads, received messages about the free order, or caught on to the trend of online shopping on the recently famous Temu app. The app is covered in bright, dopamine-creating colors and spinning wheels for a chance of bigger discounts. The store offers low priced items and it makes many feel like a billionaire. But if you examine the roots of Temu, you will see why you should keep your online shopping to more secure sites.

Temu is already under investigation by the U.S. government because its sister company, an eCommerce platform by the name Pinduoduo, was

suspended by Google for containing malware. That malware was used to steal data from consumers who made purchases on the site. The business model for Pinduoduo is extremely similar to Temu.

Just as Pinduoduo did, Temu acts as the middleman between cheap Chinese manufacturers and consumers. Google Play store banned the app from Chinese devices because the software was using malware to track users locations, search history, access files and apps, make changes to device settings, and even read private messages.

Temu has yet to be found using the same malware but with the same parent company of PDD Holdings Incorporated, it’s less of a question of “If?” but more of “When?”

While Pinduoduo is targeted to Chinese consumers, Temu is targeting American consumers. The app’s business model doesn’t make sense and leads one to wonder how the company is even still running. They buy products for almost 10 times the price they sell for, offer free shipping, and push “share and save” promotions that reward users with free items by sharing links with friends. These practices should send any company into the negative, but Temu seems to

stay on top. This may be due to a similar malware attack that gives Temu the data to sell without user consent or knowledge.

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) has already found that Temu is collecting user data such as names, addresses, phone numbers, and even birthdates. Temu can also collect additional information from your device such as the IP address that leaves you and other users in the same server vulnerable.

There is no question as to why experts in cyber security are concerned. As the experts have said countless times: delete the app and its data entirely, don’t download it, don’t click on sponsored ads no matter how good a deal may seem. Sure, you may have gotten a great deal on an off brand version of the AirPods Pros, but you’ve now exposed yourself to possible malware and identity theft.

Is it really worth the price?



Bee Goodman has been a part of the Oracle staff since 2020.

Student On The Street

Brian Carpenter
 PHOTO EDITOR

What are you streaming right now?



Evan Spsychalski
 GENERAL EDUCATION
Freshman

“Regular Show and The Office”



Lux Riley
 ART EDUCATION
Sophomore

“Love Island Season 3.”



Josh Gregory
 MUSIC PRODUCTION
Freshman

“Studio Ghibli films and Demon Slayer.”

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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

Feb 13 Feb 27
 March 26
 April 9 April 23



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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

Tuesday, Feb 6

School of Music - Faculty Recital: Justin Stanley, horn, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Friday, Feb 9

School of Music - Festival of Winds and Percussion, 8:00 a.m., Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Saturday, Feb 10

School of Music - Festival of Winds and Percussion, 9:00 a.m., Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Monday, Feb 12

School of Music - Guest Artist: Bryan Utley, saxophone, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Bryan Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee

Tuesday, Feb 13

School of Music - Concert: Univeristy Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Byran Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Saturday, Feb 17

School of Music - Recital: Mercedes Chaaston, Percussion, 1:30 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Byran Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Sunday, Feb 18

School of Music - Concert: Bryan Symphony Orchestra, 3:00 p.m., Wattenbarger Auditorium, Byran Fine Arts Building, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Snow Streaming

Gus' guide to binging during short breaks



Gus Creter
COPY EDITOR

I have never been one to shy away from my media indulgence. Like most of our readers I imagine, I have spent quite a large portion of my life engulfed in movies, music, and TV. Over the extended, snowy winter break, this fact came into fruition

more than ever.

We all experienced the chaos of having two days of class followed by a week of icy, locked in wintertime. If you're anything like me, you took a day or two to really enjoy the snow before ending up on the couch with a hot beverage and burning eyes, staring for hours at the TV. And honestly, there was nothing I would rather be doing.

Most professors stayed light on assignments in order to keep classes at a similar pace, meaning I had absolutely nothing to do but either freeze trying to play in the single-degree weather, or watch TV. For the most part I chose the latter.

My first obsession during break was Apple TV's new show "Shrinking" featuring Jason Siegel, Harrison Ford, and more exploring the ins and outs of life as a therapist, while staying both hilarious and wholeheartedly genuine. "Shrinking" is one of the smartest and sweetest shows I have watched in a long time, similar in its humor and lovable character development to another excellent Apple TV show, "Ted Lasso."

As the cold chills grew stronger and I grew more antsy, I also started to get deeply invested in my shows. My favorite first viewing of the year so far has undoubtedly been "Beef," a one-season limited series on Netflix about a road rage incident between Amy Lau, played by Ali Wong, and David Cho, played by Steven Yeun, that leads to chaos in both of their lives. "Beef" being a limited series means that you follow this single dense, intense storyline throughout the ten episodes, and with writing and performances as incredible as these, you'll be disappointed it isn't longer.

The moment I realized that the cabin fever was setting in was when I consistently cackled whilst watching Seth MacFarlane's new Peacock show "Ted." A prequel to the successful film franchise, "Ted" is clearly a pretty stupid cringe-comedy akin to MacFarlane's other hits like "Family Guy" and "American Dad," just more fresh. If you like the MacFarlane gimmick, you will probably get a kick out of "Ted."

In addition to these new shows, I have greatly enjoyed rewatching the Jeremy Allen White headed Netflix show "The Bear" with my roommates, as well as the incredibly witty, dark, and far-too-realistic "Succession."

Theater story continued from page 1



PHOTO BY BRIAN CARPENTER

The Backdoor Playhouse on January 26, 2024. The Spring 2024 Showcase has been canceled but is supposed to return in the fall semester of 2024.

graduate who was a long time student at the Playhouse, was inappropriately using program resources under Melton's production that caused numerous conflicts with scheduling the auditorium space for use and lacked an regard to the other directors.

After trying to clear things with Melton and McCaig, Alder says they put effort into smearing the reputation of Creter and himself, stating that they had "knowingly unleashed a 'sex predator and drug-peddler' (quoting Melton and McCaig's allegation of Steele) onto our innocent, vulnerable students. This is vicious slander." Alder states that he will allow Steele to defend himself but is confident that he is not the character that had been portrayed.

Alder also addresses students directly about their right to self-expression and plausible conflicts to come with students' ability to graduate on time stating they stripped, "Mark of his ability to direct on campus, they've fired me, and they have canceled a slew of classes, which will affect your ability to graduate on time, contrary to Jennifer Shank's low-effort lies."

One remark that Alder makes several times throughout his message is the fear faculty have about speaking out on the issue. He states that Creter and the new Facilities director Emma Waltenbaugh "are being gagged and threatened... and cannot express themselves regarding this issue."

Dean Shank relayed that because of an ongoing investigation she can not offer any comments at this time. There are currently plans for the Playhouse's return for the Fall 2024 semester. The continuation of shows has many students, staff, and community members eagerly awaiting for the doors to reopen.

department for years.

Alder had sent an email to Dean Shank regarding her posts on social media that featured her personal vacations and asked, "How many european vacations will you get to go on before I get a raise?" He went on to an admission of his own fault that led to the calling for his termination which he states that Mark Creter, professor of theater and Artistic Director of the Playhouse, advocated for Alder, which granted him a hearing that Alder states many students walked with him to attend, "...for which I will always be grateful."

Alder was placed on a three month suspension. During his absence Ryan Steele, a Tech alum who has regularly worked in the Cookeville theater community, received many accusations of pushing drug use onto students and requesting sex from them, which Alder claims mirrors the behavior of Melton that led to his removal from the Playhouse at the time.

According to Alder these complaints were never addressed with him or the Artistic Director Mark Creter. Alder also states in his email that Jojo McCaig, a 2023

threats of violence. Instead of protecting them from the abuse, the administration made the rules for organizing student events more onerous and prohibitive."

Soon after the video was posted, an off campus charity drag brunch was met with protestors, where a separate group of protestors had shown up waving a Nazi flag. The event caused fear and hysteria on campus that made many students feel unsafe to attend classes and university events.

"In an attempt to rein us in, it was announced that the theater faculty and staff would be resituated out of the 'overly permissive and mismanaged' English Department and into the School of Music — out of the College of Arts and Sciences and into the College of Fine Arts."

The transfer of the program subsequently led to an internal audit that found the university had committed gross wage theft against Alder for a sum of nearly \$30,000, an amount that he added that was larger than his annual salary. Alder also suggests that incident was only a fraction of the university's neglect of the theater

100 Years and Counting

In celebration of the Oracle's 100 year anniversary we're shining light on other centurians! As we take this semester to remember our past we'll include a new feature for every issue.

Dum-Dums

In 1924, Dum-Dums were created by Akron Candy Company in Bellevue, Ohio. The name for the famous candy on a stick was chosen because it was an easy name for children to say and remember. Later in 1953, Dum-Dums was purchased by its current owner, Spangler Candy, and moved to Bryan, Ohio. Today the company produces over 12 million Dum-Dums a day!

The Oracle's favorite Super Bowl foods

1



Nacho Bar - Can you go wrong?

2



Pigs in a Blanket - Keep calm and eat pigs in a blanket.

3



Pizza - The ultimate American food on the ultimate American sports day.

4



Chicken wings- Ain't no thing like a chicken wing.

5



Quesadilla - Because have you ever had a bad one?

6



Artichoke spinach dip - For the eloquent one in the crowd, or anyone else.

7



Hamburgers - I like mine with lettuce and tomato, Heinz 57...

8



Loaded tater tots - Like tater tots but better.

9



Sundae bar - Is it really a Super Bowl without it?

HVAC continued from page 1

which allowed for optimal cleanup and restoration of on-campus facilities, such as Starbucks, Tu Taco, Chick-Fil-A, and The Market.

Fortunately, The Caf was able to provide food services as the damage only affected the downstairs area of the RUC.

"We have to make sure people in the campus community do their part to keep our buildings safe and our units safe by making sure they are being responsible stewards by, for example, closing the windows," Warren said.

Although this is not a completely avoidable issue, steps can be taken such as closing windows, keeping campus in a clean and orderly manner, and respecting outside conditions to assist in minimizing future damage to mechanical work.

Restroom and water fountains were shut off on the second and third floors of the RUC on Tuesday as crews worked to repair the damages. All restrooms and water fountains were fully functional by the end of the day on Tuesday.

The clearing of Cookeville roads during the recent snowstorm leaves some locals wondering about preparation

Lawson Tidwell
REPORTER

Cars slide across Cookeville side roads glistening with freshly wet ice. Some can barely even leave their own driveways. Some find their slides interrupted by the sudden impact of an accident.

These are the scenes easily observable all throughout the week of Jan. 15 to Jan. 19. As the city prepares to begin pothole repairs due to ice damage city wide, many start to wonder: why wouldn't the city prepare more adequately for frigid conditions, particularly when they were predicted well ahead of time before they arrived?

It's no secret that the Cookeville City Council had been preparing for a frosty winter. Last year, a motion passed to purchase about 5 tons of salt for winterizing roads, but throughout the

Arctic Blast, the only roads to remain clear were main roads, which still suffered from slick conditions.

It is a fair statement to say that no amount of preparation could prevent all winter weather problems, however local government did not consider that to reach the main roads which had been cleared, most would need to drive through roads covered in slick ice and sleet.

"Couldn't get out to get groceries," says Hunter Wright, a Cookeville local, "just wasn't safe."

"Yeah, the salt truck came through my road... on Monday," said Putnam County resident Penny Vaden, referring to the Monday of Jan. 22, after the snow had begun to melt.

These statements, among others after the roads started clearing, reflect a general dissatisfaction with the local government response to the sudden weather change. It

begs the question of what exactly caused the issues with infrastructure. Was not enough salt bought? Not enough workers to distribute it? No vehicles safe enough to use on the frost covered roads? One would think all these issues would be accounted for by the dedicated government spending devoted to it towards the early winter months.

While the roads are certainly clear now, it is disheartening to be shown in such full force that whenever weather difficulties do strike, the Putnam County public will be left to fend for itself. This proves especially difficult for those who are homeless, disabled, or elderly living alone. In the future, the county should strive to make the roads as safe as possible, no matter how unlikely or sudden the winter weather, for all people forced to live in it.

Sports

Golden Eagles get “Wilder” new head coach

Callie Smith
SPORTS EDITOR

The Tech community welcomes new head football coach Bobby Wilder for the 2024 season. Following previous head coach Dewayne Alexander's retirement.

Things are about to get “wilder” for Tech football and just in time for a newly renovated Tucker Stadium. Coach Wilder brings the campaign of “Aim High” to Cookeville and his Golden Eagles team. The coach pushes his staff, players and recruits to be the best they can be.

“Aim high! That’s what we’re gonna be all about as a football team. It’ll be right on the front of our football helmet,” Wilder said.

Wilder comes from 11-years of head coaching experience at Old Dominion University and will be the 13th coach to lead the Golden Eagles in program history. Coach Wilder’s winning record of 77-56 carries much needed weight at Tech.

Over the past decade, Golden Eagle football has sat at a losing record of 35-73. The last winning season for Tech football dates back to 2011, with a record of 7-4. This is also the last time the purple and gold claimed the title of OVC regular champions. Rebuilding is nothing new for Wilder, and building Tech football back to being a

winning program is personal for him.

“I can tell the love and passion for Tennessee Tech is there. It’s my job to create a winning program that matches that passion,” Wilder said.

Bobby Wilder brings with him assistant coaches Frank Wilson, Ben Blessing, Eric Acciani, John Allen, Adam Braithwaite, Sam Williamson, and Brandon Blackmon. Wilder plans on keeping the majority of the defensive staff from the 2023 season.

“The majority of the defensive staff will be back, because we had a championship-level defense last year,” Wilder added. “They are already back in the office working.”

The 2024 football season for the Golden Eagles will take flight facing in-state rival, Middle Tennessee State University, on Aug. 31. The first game in Tucker stadium will be facing another in-state rival, TSU, on Sept. 21. The new coach is calling out to the Cookeville and Tech communities for support and is working hard to make them proud.

“I need the community... I want people fighting for a seat. I want it to be standing room only. That’s where we want to be as a program,” Wilder said.

A sneak peak may be found at a purple

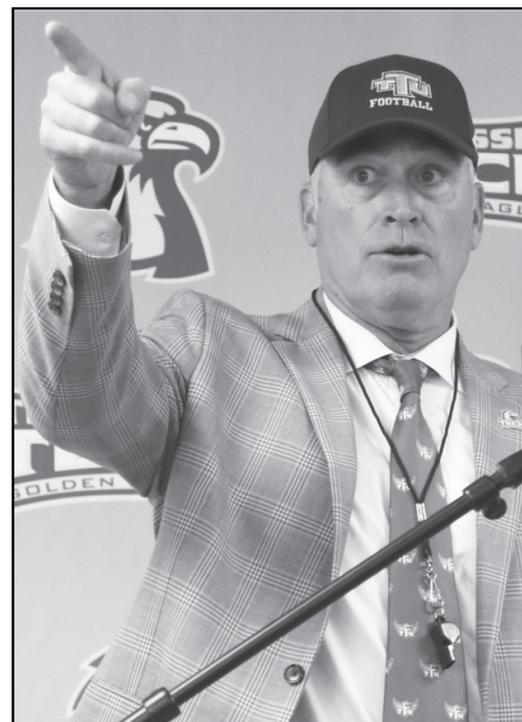


PHOTO PROVIDED BY THOMAS COHERN
Golden Eagles brings in new head coach Bob Wilder after the retirement of Dewayne Alexander. Wilder will be the first coach inside of the newly renovated Tucker Stadium.

and gold scrimmage coming this spring. Date and time to be determined.

It's the girls' game now; road to victory ahead

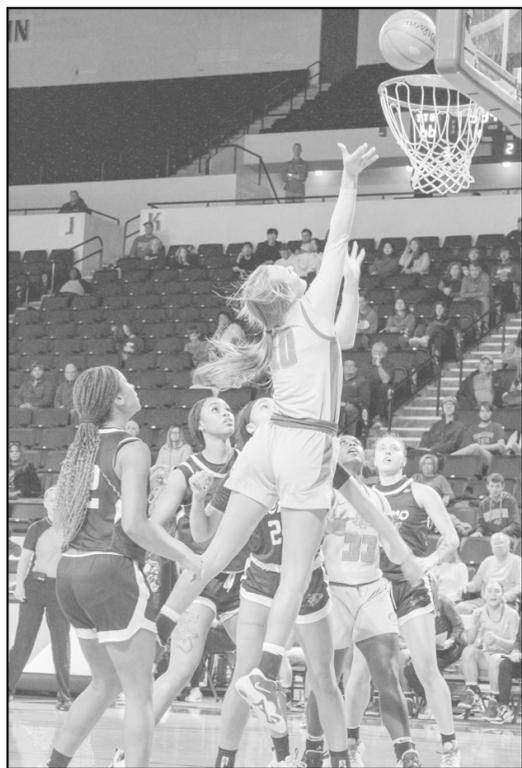


PHOTO BY LILLY DAVIS
Raegan Hurst (10) leaps for the basketball in the Jan 13 game against Southeast Missouri.

Callie Smith
SPORTS EDITOR

The Golden Eagles take on the road to victory against OVC opponent SIUE Saturday, Jan. 27 to put TTU at .500 in the conference.

It is said that defense wins games, but for this matchup against the Golden Eagles and the Cougars, it may have been the rebounds that secured a win for the purple and gold. Tech beat SIUE in rebounds 44-37. But it was the offensive rebounds that set the Golden Eagles apart and pushed the point differential for a TTU win.

The Golden Eagles doubled its opponent in offensive rebounds with a total of 20. These boards allowed for nearly a third of the Tech team’s total points scored, 21 out of 67. Peyton Carter came off the bench to lead the team in not only overall rebounds, but offensive rebounds as well. Carter logged 27-mins off the bench and scored 10 for the Golden Eagles.

Other game leaders include Maaliya Owens with 16-points, 5-rebounds and 4-assists, Reagan Hurst with 8-points, 5-rebounds and 4-assists, Anna Walker with 13-points, 5-rebounds and 2-assists, and Yaubyron Chambers with 9-points and 4-rebounds.

With a month of play left in the 2023-2024 regular season, the reigning OVC

champions sit at 4-4 in the OVC conference with wins averaging at a 9.5 point differential and only a 4 point difference in losses. The numbers show, the Tech team can play with anyone in their conference and another conference championship could be within reach.

The month of February is filled with OVC opponents for the purple and gold. You can catch the Golden Eagles back in The Hooper-Eblen Center on Thursday, Feb. 1 at 5:30 p.m. facing Southern Indiana and on Saturday, Feb. 3 at 1:00 p.m. facing Morehead State. This will be TTU’s second time facing both of its upcoming opponents.

The last time Tech met Southern Indiana was on Jan. 6 on the Screaming Eagles homecourt in Evansville. The Golden Eagles were leading at the half 41-32, but were outscored by Southern Indiana in the second half to lose the battle, 69-66. Payback will be personal for the purple and gold on their home floor this Thursday night.

Come and see what the reigning OVC champions have this season. If you are unable to join the Golden Eagles in Cookeville on Thursday night, all games can be streamed on ESPN+.

Men’s Basketball takes a third OVC loss

Callie Smith
SPORTS EDITOR

Tech men’s basketball took their third straight OVC conference loss at SIUE on Saturday, Jan. 27.

The matchup against the Cougars on Saturday resulted in a 57-74 loss for the Golden Eagles. This kept the losing streak going after falling to Eastern Illinois and Tennessee State the previous week. The Golden Eagles currently sit at 2-6 in the OVC.

The Tech team was able to outscore SIUE by three possessions in the second half, 38-29. But even with the extra 9-points above, the deficit of the first quarter was too much to overcome for the purple and gold. SIUE outscored Tech 45-19 in the first half. This set the Golden Eagles back to an unthinkable catch up.

The Golden Eagles had a hard time finding the rim in the first half in Edwardsville, hitting only 23% of shots taken and being 1/10 from the three-point range. The highest scoring Golden Eagle was Josiah Davis with 9-points. The rest of the team sat below five.

The offense finally got moving in the second half and the Golden Eagles more than doubled their baskets made, finishing the half at an incredible 51% shots made while being 6/12 for

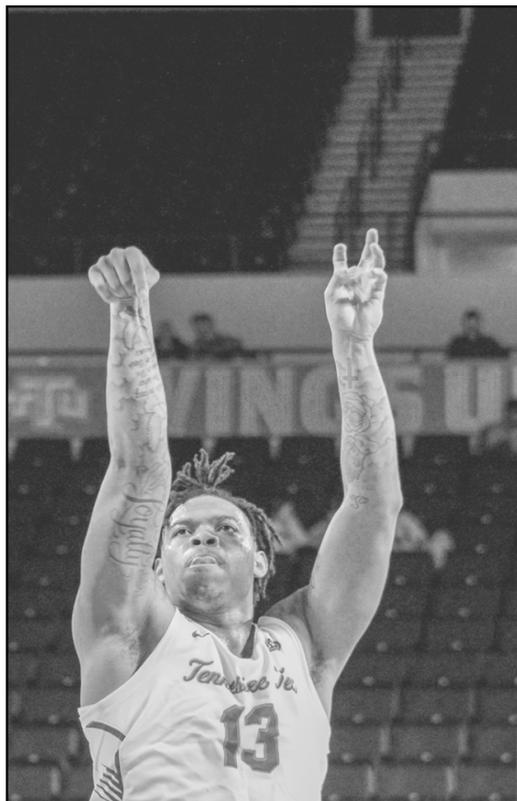


PHOTO BY LILLY DAVIS
Jayvis Harvey (13) takes a free throw at the Jan 13 game against Southeast Missouri.

three-pointers. This is after losing senior Diante Wood to injury. Injury has been a stumbling block for the purple and gold this season, setting the team back to only nine players. Josiah Davis also led the second half with 10-points. Kyle Layton and Daniel Egbuniwe just behind him with 8-points each.

Game leaders against SIUE include: Josiah Davis with 16-points, 7-rebounds and 4-assists. Daniel Egbuniwe with 8-points, 7-rebounds and 2-assists. Kyle Layton with 10-points, 2-rebounds and 1-assist.

The month of February holds nine OVC regular season games for the Golden Eagles. You can catch the purple and gold back at The Hooper-Eblen Center on Thursday, Feb. 1 for a rematch against Southern Indiana at 7:30 p.m. The Golden Eagles will also be on their home court Saturday, Feb. 3 facing Morehead State once again at 3pm.

The Golden Eagles are looking for their next potential win against Southern Indiana. The Tech team was able to capture their first OVC win in Evansville three weeks ago against the Steaming Eagles, 73-59.

If you are unable to join the purple and gold this week in Cookeville, all Tech basketball games can be streamed on ESPN+.

A COLD LOOK AT CAMPUS



PHOTO BY RYAN CARRIGAN
Footprints in the snow on Tech's campus on January 16, 2024.



PHOTO BY BRIAN CARPENTER
Tech students and members of the Cookeville community take advantage of a snow day and walk through campus on January 15, 2024.



PHOTO BY BRIAN CARPENTER
Tech students ride in the back of a truck near Capital Quad on January 15, 2024.



PHOTO BY BRIAN CARPENTER
Tucker Stadium's bleachers covered in snow on January 15, 2024.



PHOTO BY BEE GOODMAN
The waterfall on Centennial Plaza frozen from cold temperatures on January 22, 2024.



PHOTO BY LILLY DAVIS
Derryberry Hall and part of campus covered in snow on January 16, 2024.



PHOTO BY EMMA MCCARTER
Tech students gather in the Caf for lunch on January 17, 2024.



PHOTO BY BRIAN CARPENTER
A tree covered with snow inside Pinkerton Quad on January 15, 2024.