O 37°

Manage Service

Hundreds of students test engineering skills at

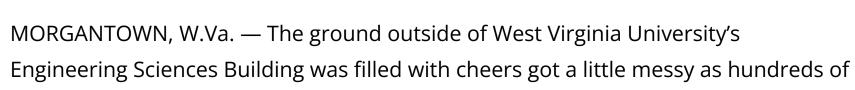
TOP STORY

WVU's 36th annual pumpkin drop by Chase Hughart STAFF WRITER Oct 31, 2025 👤 0 🗏 2 min to read



Powered by **Trinity Audio** 00:00

Listen to this article now



Drop Friday morning.

Staff photo by Chase Hughart

The event, hosted by the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, brought together more than 1,000 students and teachers from across West Virginia and Pennsylvania. Over 300 K-12 teams competed to design a device capable of protecting an eight-inch or larger pumpkin from a dramatic fall — a

challenge that blends fun with lessons in science, math, and engineering.

"This is our annual Pumpkin Drop event for K-12 students, primarily middle

schoolers," said Scott Wayne, associate professor in the Department of Mechanical,

Materials and Aerospace Engineering and faculty advisor for WVU's student chapter

pumpkins plummeted 11 stories to the ground during WVU's 36th annual Pumpkin

of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). "They design a device or container that protects a pumpkin from a fall from the 11-story Engineering Sciences Building. It's a great STEM project, and all proceeds go to the Ronald McDonald House Charities here in Morgantown." Wayne said the event has been running since 1988, only pausing for two years during the COVID-19 pandemic. What began as a small student project within ASME

has grown into one of WVU's most visible outreach traditions, introducing hundreds

of students each year to hands-on problem solving and the university environment.

"The main thing they're learning is physics — gravity, terminal velocity, and how to

protect something from an impact," Wayne said. "It's just a fun opportunity for

students to come to campus, compete, and learn."

pumpkin survives or not."

collected donations throughout the day.

interest in engineering and higher education.

For many participants, it's their first trip to a college campus. WVU students say the excitement among the visiting children is contagious. "They're having a blast — screaming, watching pumpkins fall, seeing them explode

when they hit the ground," said Christopher Hayes, a junior mechanical engineering

major and president of the WVU ASME chapter. "I've seen rockets, footballs, boxes,

even bowls. Every year there's something new, and the kids love it whether their

This year's drop featured 315 teams, each with three to six students. The team whose pumpkin lands closest to the target without breaking took home a \$100 prize, followed by \$50 for second place and \$25 for third.

The "Pumpkin Drop Target" itself was a product of cross-campus creativity, designed

Creative Arts and Media. Maker Space Manager Michael Loop of the Lane Innovation

Hub crafted trophies for the winners, and employees from the hub volunteered to

by theater design and technology student Emily Jack from the WVU College of

manage the drop zone. Beyond the competition, the event served as a showcase for WVU's engineering programs. Student organizations and competition teams demonstrated their projects, and ASME members sold event T-shirts to benefit their organization. Representatives from Ronald McDonald House Morgantown hosted games and

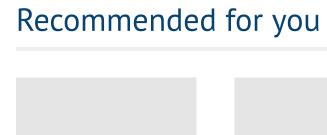
Wayne said that in addition to supporting a good cause, the event helps spark future

"For some students, it's the first time they've been on a college campus," he said.

"Some of them may end up coming to WVU when they're older to pursue their

degrees here. It's a great outreach and recruitment opportunity — and just a fun day al around." **PREV**

*** (0 Ratings)



West Virginia University

Tags

WEST VIRGINIA

Bits and

Virginia

UNIVERSITY SPORTS

Bytes: West

Mountaineers

- Houston **Cougars**

expo

WV NEWS

School

WVU-

students

careers at

supported

South Middle

explore future

U.S. Cardiologist Warns Aging Seniors About Blueberries for Breakfast

C Load comments

WEST VIRGINIA

UNIVERSITY SPORTS

Hodge and his

Mountaineers

excited to get

their regular-

season

underway

WEST VIRGINIA

Virginia

- Houston

postgame

interviews,

highlights

Cougars

UNIVERSITY SPORTS

WATCH: West

Mountaineers

West Virginia! 17 FOUR YEAR DEGREE PROGRAMS 4 MASTER'S PROGRAMS GLENVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

Please join us for First-Gen Celebration

Week! The following events will be taking place on-campus: 🔭 November 3rd at

Lowest tuition

& fees in

AP News Summary at 12:29 a.m. EST Trump's strength, Democrats' message and the shutdown

historic election

Latest News

03:35

West Virginia hosts Mount St. Mary's to open season

■ Today in History: November 4, Obama wins presidency in

- effect. What to watch on Election Day 2025 Mamdani and Cuomo face off as New York City chooses new mayor, while Sliwa hopes for an upset
 - athletes in baseball and track, has died at 75

Victor Conte, who sold undetectable steroids to elite

- 91-year-old man killed, three injured in Clay County crash
- New York's Jewish community divided, anxious as city faces potential first Muslim mayor

Anatomy of a news story: '60 Minutes' invites audience into

- November
- or-treat basket to local medical facility

Police trace Halloween fentanyl vial found in Beckley trick-

■ Tylenol, Kleenex, Band-Aid and more put under one roof in

Trial rescheduled for Kanawha County teen accused in fatal

- Man gets prison for burglary, destruction of property; judge and prosecutor cite defendant's long criminal history

Mineral News & Tribune promotes High to editor

- Fricks scores 16 as Marshall knocks off UMass 78-72 The top photos of the day by AP's photojournalists
- What to know about Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry's

intervention in LSU football

Sheetz shooting

- the editing process with Trump interview Trump administration says SNAP will be partially funded in
- Republicans seek to tap into Trump energy on eve of Election Day in New Jersey, Virginia
- \$48.7 billion consumer brands deal ■ Diane Ladd, 3-time Oscar nominee, dies at 89

Services About Us Contact Us Rack Locations Media Kit

Add Search Toolbar

Subscription Services

Submission Forms

DISCOVER

Contact Us

WV News 324 Hewes Avenue PO Box 2000 Clarksburg, WV 26301 Phone: 1-800-982-6034 Email: support@wvnews.com

Independent Voice of West Virginia

Site Search

Search...

Pay Print Bill

Pay Advertising Bill

Manage Subscription

Promote Your Event

Advertise with Us

© Copyright 2025 WVNews.com 324 Hewes Avenue PO Box 2000, Clarksburg, WV | Terms of Use | Privacy Policy