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\$60K donation revamps student food pantry

BY CHRISTINA RUFO
CO-NEWS EDITOR

West Virginia University leaders, as well as representatives from Kroger Mid-Atlantic and Kraft Heinz, met in the Great Room of the Morgan House on Wednesday to unveil the relocation and completion of The Rack: West Virginia University Student Food Pantry.

Upgrades to the pantry were made possible by a combined \$60,000 in donations from Kroger and Kraft Heinz and will allow it to serve more students facing food insecurity each year.

According to Thanh Le, WVU's director of Student Engagement and Leadership, there can only be three students in the pantry space at a time due to COVID-19-related restrictions and social distancing policies.

Students can enter through the side door of the Morgan House on High Street and will need to knock to be let in and receive instructions.

"Students will need to scan their student I.D. when they enter in order to keep track of who is coming in and out of the pantry," Le said.

The Rack provides non-perish-



PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

WVU President E. Gordon Gee tours The Rack student food pantry with Allison McGee, corporate affairs manager for Kroger Mid-Atlantic.

able and perishable food items to all WVU students who are in need of assistance through WVU Student Engagement and Leadership. There is a limitation of what items students can take per day, but there is no limit to how many times students can visit per week.

"When students come in, they can fill out a laminated sheet to circle what they want, and our student em-

ployees will help put together a bag for them to take," Le said.

WVU Dean of Students Corey Faris said, "Our newly renovated space aims to provide more products in a readily accessible space. The Rack provides our students a financial safety net and allows them to focus on their academic pursuits."

According to Allison McGee, who is the corporate affairs



PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

The ribbon cutting for the reopening of The Rack.



PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

McGee speaks at the opening of The Rack.

The Rack: Student Food Pantry

Location: Morgan House, 660 N. High Street, lower level (across from the Mountainlair, up the hill from Boreman Hall)

Entrance: Through the side door on the lower level

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Website: studentengagement.wvu.edu/the-rack-student-food-pantry

Phone Number: (304) 293-4397

manager of Kroger Mid-Atlantic, the grocery store chain is dedicated to eliminating hunger in the communities it serves through its partnerships.

"When people think about food insecurity, they don't typically think about college students, but according to our surveys, over 36% of the stu-

dents here at WVU are struggling with hunger," McGee said. "There really is a need for this, and we're thrilled to be here to do something about it."

The pantry will be open to all students starting at 2 p.m. Feb. 17, and it will be open Monday through Friday 8:15 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Equity more realistic than equality, says student NAACP VP

BY CRAIG WEIMER
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

Many of WVU's Black students say there is still inequality within the nation, state and even the University's own campus.

"I think over the summer at WVU, it's been a lot of students taking action, fighting for equity over equality, because there's a big difference," said Camryn Pressley, second vice president of the WVU NAACP and a senior

international studies student. "[We want to] make sure we are on equal footing with our white counterparts here at the school."

Pressley said that equity is a much more realistic option than equality.

"Equality is giving everyone the same thing," Pressley said. "Equity is making sure that you give someone enough to be on equal footing with the person who has the most."

Pressley also said that just because equal treatment for disenfranchised people has been enshrined in federal law, it is not always given.

"I think one of the equity vs. equality problems occurs with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, where a lot of conservatives feel that [we] just get all the rights guaranteed to us," Pressley said. "We actually have to fight for those rights still. There's gerrymandering going on in North Carolina and Pennsylvania that no one really notices because people still have the right to vote."

According to Pressley, outright discrimination is not an entirely dead issue in our own state of West Virginia.

"West Virginia still hasn't passed

anything that prohibits discrimination based on natural hair textures and styles," Pressley said. "[The law] says I can't get discriminated for my race, my color, my religion; I'm still getting discriminated against because of how my hair grows, and I can't change that, so it's little things that are not fleshed out all the way."

While activism is important, Pressley said that some forms of activism are problematic, like what she calls "performative activism."

"Performative actions are actions that are taken to silence a group un-

til they forget about what they're upset about," Pressley said. "Like, when you post things on social media and say you believe in this, but behind closed doors, you're not taking any action on it."

Tracey Picou, president of the WVU NAACP and a senior multidisciplinary studies student, also spoke about performance activism.

She said she could see such errors in activism occurring on WVU's campus.

See **Students** page 4



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WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

THURSDAY 02/18

SNOW THROUGHOUT DAY
HIGH 33° - LOW 29°



FRIDAY 02/19

SNOW SHOWERS IN THE MORNING
HIGH 31° - LOW 15°



SATURDAY 02/20

CLOUDY THROUGHOUT THE DAY
HIGH 25° - LOW 8°



CRIME REPORT

FEB. 14
12:43 p.m. | Resolved
Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Nuisance party.

FEB. 14
1:40 a.m. | Warning
Monongalia Blvd.
Traffic stop.

FEB. 14
1:13 a.m. | Citation
WVU Summit Hall
Fake identification.

FEB. 14
4:01 a.m. | Juvenile
WVU Summit Hall
Underage consumption.

FEB. 14
11:28 p.m. | Resolved

49 Newton Ave.
Assist EMS police.

FEB. 15
9:17 a.m. | Unfounded
992 Elmer Prince Drive
Lost property.

FEB. 15
4:57 p.m. | Resolved
WVU Child Care Center
Assist EMS police.

FEB. 15
6:03 p.m. | Unresolved
WVU Art Museum
Alarm condition.

FEB. 15
8:13 p.m. | Resolved
College Park
Assist fire dept. police.

The DA is student-run and editorially independent from West Virginia University. All content decisions in the DA are made by students without prior review by the University.

SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENTS



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J.D. Nickey
@JDNickey99

I've been waiting for this for a long time! @WestVirginiaU



Amertriptyline @zanjabeeli · Feb 16

oh to be a cat vibing like this on a chilly day (instead of studying nephro)



Brian McCracken
@BMcCracken92

Long John Silvers is the pride of Sabraton

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WVU's INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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WVU scientists target antibiotic-resistant infections with \$1.4 million DOD grant

BY EMILY REXROAD
CO-NEWS EDITOR

The WVU School of Medicine has received a substantial grant to research developing treatment for antibiotic-resistant infections.

The grant was received through the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Threat Reduction Agency, and totals \$1.4 million. A research group will be led by assistant professor Mariette Barbier.

Antibiotics, which are vital to the recovery in medical advancements such as joint replacement, organ transplant, cancer therapy and treatment of chronic illnesses, are designed to prevent infections following these procedures, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

However, because antibiotics have evolving versatility, it can result in rejection and ultimately defeat the drugs that were designed to kill them.

Antibiotic-resistant infections, also referred to as antimicrobial or drug resistance, can affect just about anyone, especially those suffering from chronic illnesses. Infections caused by this resistance are difficult, oftentimes impossible, to treat.

According to the CDC, 2.8



PHOTO VIA WVU

The WVU School of Medicine team that will work on fighting antibiotic-resistant infections with the \$1.4 million grant.

million people in the U.S. alone face infections due to antibiotic-resistance, and more than 35,000 people die as a result.

Barbier is accompanied by

associate professor Slawomir Lukomski and postdoctoral fellow Alexander Horspool, as well as researchers from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University

of Maryland, to develop a way to fight antibiotic-resistant infections utilizing artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques.

"Using artificial intelli-

gence and machine learning will allow us to make reiterative calculations in order to predict whether compounds could have potential therapeutic effects," Lukomski said

in statement.

This project will serve as preparation for bioterrorism risks, the intentional release of biological agents, as well as potential solutions for antibiotic resistance. Using a "search and deploy approach," Barbier's team will combine antibodies with antimicrobials to create a therapeutic potent to potentially treat the infections.

"Some bacteria are potential bioterror agents, but there are also bacteria within those same families that are responsible for causing hospital-acquired infections," Barbier said. "By focusing on these species of bacteria, we're casting a broad net to address potential biological threats as well as infections that afflict everyday patients."

Barbier hopes to develop ways to fight the infections and prevent them from even happening.

"What we've realized is how powerful our own immune systems and antibodies can be. So what we propose here is to harness that aspect of our immune system and use it for treatment," Barbier said.

This project is the result of several connections Barbier made following the 2019 BIO International Convention. The three universities will work together to find a solution for antibiotic-resistance.

Petition for Rec Center to reopen leads to dead end

BY CHRISTINA RUFO
CO-NEWS EDITOR

Despite reaching more than 3,000 signatures, a petition crafted by junior journalism student Jakob Janoski in hopes of reopening the Rec Center for student use has yet to result in any change from WVU.

The petition was released last month on change.org and caught the attention of the WVU administration. However, despite the petition's recognition, there has been little progress overall.

According to Janoski, there was no new information given out during the Campus Conversation last month.

"They held firm that the Student Rec Center will be staying closed," Janoski said. "I do believe that this petition has politely put the University into a position in which they have to respond to the people who signed the petition, which is a good thing."

WVU's Director of Campus Recreation Andrew Darling did offer a statement last week regarding the status of the Rec Center.

"The University's health and safety advisory team continues to evaluate the evolving information related to the virus and make adjustments as necessary including the use of the Rec Center," Darling said.

Since the Rec Center is serving as WVU's primary COVID-19 testing and vaccination hub, Darling said "its location, parking and large open space availability makes it the best option for this critical activity for the health and safety of the entire campus community."

The Rec Center has offered access to educational and recreational opportunities throughout the pandemic in a variety of ways including virtual classes, Field REC and other activities in partnership with the Refresh series.

However with the winter weather making an impact, all outdoor recreational activities have been moved virtual, resulting in lower participation and a greater push from students for changes to be made.

Senior Gillian Wanosky, a virtual barre instructor, said the turnout for online workout classes is not very consistent.

"I think it's much easier to motivate yourself to come to an in-person class because you have to physically take yourself to the Rec Field," Wanosky said. "Being virtual, there's so many distractions around you, and I think it's sometimes tempting to skip out when you're at home."

As stated by Darling, students whose courses are all online received a two-thirds reduction of their student fees to reflect the fact they're not present to take part in many of the in-person services.

According to Wanosky, the in-person, outdoor Rec ac-



PHOTO BY RYLAN NEMESH

Attendance for online workout classes has been inconsistent this school year, according to senior Gillian Wanosky.

tivities are set to continue with warmer weather, but until then, it will remain online-only while the Rec Center remains closed.

Janoski still remains hopeful that his petition will spark more conversation.

"No one from the University has reached out to me,"

Janoski said, "but I look forward to having a conversation with whom I called out on the petition."

WVU celebrates Black History Month with guest speakers and group conversations

STAFF REPORT

The Carruth Center, LGBTQ+ Center and the Center for Black Culture and Research are hosting virtual events all of February in honor of Black History Month.

This month, Resident Hall Coordinator Javier McCoy and Toni Owens, a doctoral student, will host a watch party over Zoom every Thursday for the Netflix series “When They See Us” and will hold an interactive discussion afterward on what was viewed.

The series, focused on the Central Park Five, is a crime drama released in 2019 that addresses racial profiling in the U.S., as well as themes on oppression, privilege and discrimination. It won several accolades, including two Emmy

Awards.

“A Shared Experience,” a Zoom panel hosted by the Center for Black Culture and Research on Feb. 16 for the Black and Latinx community, strived to bring Black and Latinx communities together by discussing the efforts required to make that change.

The Center for Black Culture and Research will also host guest speaker Charlene Carruthers, a political strategist and PhD student of African American Studies at Northwestern University, on Zoom Feb. 23.

Carruthers’ book “Unapolgetic” challenges political and social norms, and she is considered to be one of America’s most influential activists. She is the founding director of Black Youth 100 and the Chicago Center for Leadership

and Transformation.

The LGBTQ+ Center and the Carruth Center are teaming together to host a Zoom meeting on Feb. 23 from 5 to 6 p.m. titled “Celebrating Every Ounce of Melanin.” This event is a platform for queer and trans people of color who want to meet and talk with one another about their experiences, according to the Student Life page.

This event will feature Felicia Hooper from the Carruth Center, who will talk about self-celebrating and self-care.

All of these events can be found on WVU’s Student Life website and require a Zoom pre-registration to attend the event.

Contributions were made by Crystal Check and Emily Rexroad

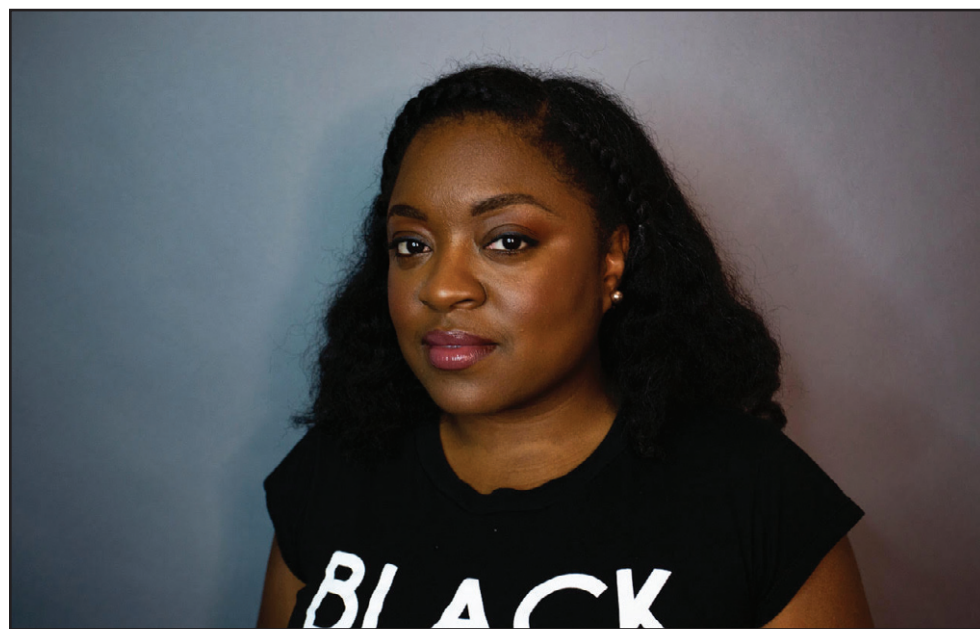


PHOTO BY URS MANN

Charlene Carruthers will speak to the Center for Black Culture and Research on Feb. 23.

Mask-wearing relaxes on campus as pandemic drags on

STAFF REPORT

Wearing a mask is one of the most common recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to help slow the spread of COVID-19, but at WVU, not all are abiding by the regulations.

At WVU, it is required to wear a mask anytime you’re in a public place. This requirement includes being inside University buildings, resident halls and outdoor University property when students are in close proximity. The University has limited most common areas to a small number to encourage social distancing.

According to the University’s COVID-19 Dashboard, Feb. 8 to 14 showed a 3.53% positivity rate, which has increased almost each week since students returned to

“I think it comes down to privilege. They’ve never been told that they can’t do something”

-Eliza Siefert, sophomore environmental microbiology student.

campus.

Lily Oles, a freshman recreation, parks and tourism resource student, said students in the dorms typically wear masks in public areas, like the lobby, but not everywhere in the building.

“Outside, people take their masks off,” Oles said. “[People] sitting at a table in the Mountainlair, by themselves or with their friends, whether they’re eating or not, usually have their mask off.”

According to Oles, not as many people on campus wear

masks as they do in the dorms. Residence hall assistants and other residence hall staff have been reminding students to continue wearing masks in the building.

With general faculty not enforcing it in public spaces like the Mountainlair, students aren’t held accountable to the fact they need to keep their masks on inside University property. Oles said there hasn’t been a pressing issue of students not wearing masks in classrooms.

“People are getting more



PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

A mask on the ground in downtown Morgantown.

and more careless just because they’re getting used to it, and I think that they should be used to following the guidelines and not getting used to being tired of [it],” said Lydia Kellas, a freshman advertising and public relations student.

Kellas believes overall the University has done a good job making the testing center available to students, but it needs to consider a downtown testing location site for student convenience.

“I think it comes down to

privilege. They’ve never been told that they can’t do something,” said Eliza Siefert, a sophomore environmental microbiology student.

Kellas and Oles suggested that the University impose stricter policies for mask-wearing on campus. Siefert suggested fining students who don’t wear masks to make the expectations clearer.

“I know the University already has a mask mandatory policy, but it’s obviously not effective,” Kellas said.

As the U.S. nears its one-year mark from the COVID-19 shutdown, students have normalized the society we now live in and choose to either assimilate or challenge the healthcare guidelines.

Contributions made by Sadaf Nikzad and Emily Rexroad.

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Students

Continued from page 1

“I think that’s kind of what tends to happen on the WVU campus,” Picou said. “There’s some events put on by certain racial groups, but they’re not educated in that [racial experience], so say I was to put on an event about white history, but I’m not white so I don’t know anything about it. I’m just putting it on because I’ll get volunteer hours or because I’m getting paid for it.”

Picou also said she has watched fellow Black students do rewardless work, which is one of the differences in racial treatment Picou mentioned.

“Over the summer, I know a lot of Black students who did a lot of work through the University, and they were just [used as a way] to hear [Black students] out like, ‘OK, what’s the problem; what do we need to fix?’ and then the University didn’t fix the problem,” Picou said. “There was no end result.”

Pressley expanded on this, saying she would like to see more concrete results, and more recognition, for the work of Black activists on campus.

“It’s kind of upsetting,” Pressley said. “Because you’re taking the time out of your day to make life on this campus better for yourself, but [others] don’t have to deal with the trials and tribulations of what

you deal with every single day.

Pressley also said the University is taking from Black students without giving back.

“Just getting told ‘your expertise is needed,’ is a little frustrating when that expertise doesn’t get as much recognition as it could,” Pressley said. “The University is just taking from Black students, wanting our experiences and our traumas over and over and over, multiple times, and nothing is happening.”

“At some point, Black students are gonna get tired because reliving that does nothing except make us feel like we’re in a fishbowl with people looking in.”

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‘Schools do not teach Black history’

The importance of Black History Month

BY MARIANO MARADIEGUE
STAFF WRITER

Initially created with the intent of only lasting one week, Black History Month began in 1926 as “Negro History Week.”

The celebratory week was created by Carter G. Woodson, a well-known African American historian, educator, publisher and scholar. The reason for this celebration is to honor all of the African Americans who contributed to the history of the United States. In 1976, the week became a month-long celebration to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.

“Our purpose, our mission is to make sure that there is clarity and awareness around where we are regarding the African American experience,” said Majorie Fuller, the director of WVU’s Center for Black Culture and Research. “And promoting and understanding that the African American experience is the American experience and it affects all of us.”

The Center for Black Culture and Research is one of the largest contributors to Black History Month on campus.

Fuller outlined some of the goals the CBC&R strives to achieve through its work, as well as the racial issues that occurred recently and her thoughts on where to go from here.

“There’s been a new illumination on why we actually need to study black history, why we need to discuss race relations and that the problem around race relations is not something that we have already resolved,” Fuller said. “It’s an ongoing problem that we need to continue to look at, and it’s something that we need to acknowledge that we all have a responsibility to deal with.”

Fuller then said why it is essential to celebrate Black History Month.

“Our schools do not teach Black history in any kind of an ongoing way; there needed to be more time to talk about the true history of Black people in this country,” Fuller said. “I feel that there needs to be more of an opportunity for our youngsters to learn about their history because it is all of our history as a whole.”

Fuller believes WVU has celebrated Black History Month well through events on campus.

“I genuinely feel, at least with my office and the programming and initiatives that we’ve put forth for Black History Month, that the University has been very supportive and very engaged,” she said.

Fuller said her job is never done because there is always more you can do to educate people.

“I can’t ever say that I think we do enough; I always think



PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

The CBC&R is located at 590 Spruce Street.

that there is more that we can do,” Fuller said. “If I were to say in what area that I think we’d like to see more done, it would be in the area of education around Black history and Black culture.”

The pandemic has altered some events and programs for the CBC&R, so it has had to find innovative ways to continue to spread its message. Fuller stressed that while it has been a challenge to adjust, it has definitely made them more flexible.

The CBC&R will be bringing in author and activist Charlene Caruthers on Feb. 23 for an event at its facility, which can be found on its website.



PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

The CBC&R is one of the largest contributors to Black History Month on campus.

Africana studies staff, faculty lacks diversity, per diversity ambassador

BY CRAIG WEIMER
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

The list of classes in WVU’s Africana studies department is diverse, but its staff is not as it currently has zero Black professors.

“You’ve got to think where we are; it is a PWI (predominantly white institution), but you would want at least a couple of African American professors, especially in that de-

partment,” said Tracey Picou, a senior multidisciplinary studies student and a student diversity ambassador for the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

While a professor’s expertise is important, Picou says having Black professors could add a dimension that pure expertise lacks.

“Granted, the other non-African American professors have studied it and gone to school for it, but you would want to see an actual African

American professor teaching the history,” Picou said. “It would just be beneficial because you’d have multiple perspectives. Eventually, some biases start to play into it when it’s from other perspectives.”

Additionally, Picou said there was a level of personal connection that could be achieved when Black professors teach Black topics.

“I think it’ll also help them to see different points of view, especially if you’ve got an African American professor teach-

ing it,” she said. “[Students] will be able to see how the professor really feels as well.”

Picou said hiring a more diverse staff for the program would not just help the students they are teaching, but the University as a whole.

“I do think it would be beneficial for the University; it wouldn’t give them a negative look if they had found and [taken on] African American professors in that department,” Picou said.

So, why the absence of

Black professors? Picou suggested that it might be a combination of hiring failures and pure accidents.

“It could be accidental because maybe all white professors applied for that position,” Picou said. “And maybe it could be an institutional thing; maybe they used to have [more diverse] professors and everyone left. I do know a lot of people tend to come and go at WVU, especially professors and advisors.”

Despite the lack of diver-

sity in this department, Picou said she was pleased with the University’s efforts to increase diversity.

“Each year, we try to do the best we can to make the University more diverse and more inclusive, and with the pandemic happening, we really couldn’t do as much,” Picou said. “But I do know the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion did their best. I would say we’re definitely growing in the diversity and inclusion area.”

OPINION

WVU needs to assert self against WV Legislature — now more than ever

BY JARED SERRE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Since the legislative session began on Feb. 10, more than 700 bills have been introduced over the two chambers of the legislature. They range on a variety of topics, such as selling alcohol earlier on Sundays to eliminating the requirement that schools be closed on election days, as well as many topics in between.

Of course, only a handful of these pieces of legislation become law each year, but their presence alone is enough to warrant careful discussion on how they would impact everyday West Virginians.

As Gov. Jim Justice outlined in his State of the State Address earlier this month, the abolishment of the personal income tax is a big priority for him and the state Republican Party, which currently holds a supermajority among the state legislature. The state's estimated income tax revenue for the 2021 fiscal year is expected to be more than \$2 billion, according to the West Virginia Center On Budget & Policy, and its abolishment would result



PHOTO COURTESY OF PERRY BENNETT/WV LEGISLATURE

The West Virginia House of Delegates meets on Opening Day on Jan. 13.

in countless cuts within the state's budget.

West Virginia University is a major beneficiary of state funding, whether directly or indirectly, and as lawmakers dip their hands into campus carry, the soda tax and more, campus may soon look very different from how it does

now.

Another potential change lies in the elimination of the PROMISE Scholarship, a move that would result in an estimated savings of \$47 million. While no bill has been introduced within the legislature, such a move has been discussed among lawmakers.

Many of our staffers hail from across the Mountain State, and many have expressed the inability to further their education without it. As thousands of WVU students are state natives, there are a vast number of students that reap the benefits of the program.

Some current legislation, as well as how it could be potentially destructive to the University, campus and the student body, is downright troublesome. It seems like, given what options are on the table, West Virginia University is in a position to get shafted. And when WVU gets

shafted, students get shafted too.

Our editorial board met with WVU President E. Gordon Gee on Friday, and he reiterated his dedication to advocating for what is best for higher education and the University, saying that WVU and higher education across the state need to be invested in.

While Gee alluded to a large base of financial contributors being a backup plan in case student aid and WVU funds are slashed, the unknown is still concerning.

I'm not going to come out in favor of specific legislation and against others as that would be irresponsible given my role, but I am writing to strongly urge WVU to remember that, while administrators are the ones making decisions, it is the students that allow this University to operate.

WVU is a force far and wide across the state, whether through the gold and blue worn on fall Saturdays, the people who cash paychecks from WVU and WVU Medicine or the impact the University has on the local economy.

It's time to be a force in the statehouse too.

'To All the Boys: Always and Forever' a nauseously sweet finale

BY ZACH DELUCA
STREAMING CRITIC

When "To All the Boys I've Loved Before" arrived on Netflix in 2018 (the first in the series), it was deemed a teenage rom-com hit by critics and audiences alike, both for its ingenious hook of a premise involving true love found within a fake relationship, and for a powerhouse performance from Lana Condor as Lara Jean, whose infectious energy seemed to brighten the duller of tropes into something

honest.

Unfortunately, the third and final installment of Lara Jean's love story with teenage hunk Peter (Noah Centineo) has traded much of its sly maturity and sensitivity for a story so blatantly devoid of anything left to tell.

"Always and Forever" finds our lovebirds nearing the end of their senior year of high school, and after Lara Jean is denied admission into Stanford, their fairytale plan of going to the same school is destroyed. In addition, Lara Jean gains a new fascination with

NYU, and the thought of potentially attending a school much further away brings with it anxieties of the couple's ability to survive long distance.

The trouble is, no tension seems to exist in these conflicts in part because we have two films under our belt that have proven the pair's stability, and also because the newest film never attempts to hold onto these troubles long.

Even worse, the identities of our leads seem more lost than ever before. This is particularly true for Lara Jean who's always been consumed

by love but never has it felt like her struggles weren't allowed to be her own, and the film seems content to sweep past her cultural heritage and leave it behind 10 minutes after the introduction.

The obsessive nature of the romantic relationship's narrative focus also taints the film's attempt to incorporate subplots. The drama involving Peter's father (Henry Thomas) and his desire to reconnect with his son comes across as desperate fuel for the lead couple's relationship drama more so than it does Peter's

own arch.

It's overstuffed to the point that senior trips, graduation and weddings have no choice but to be mashed into awkward montages, and the film drags even when it has no time to take its foot off the gas.

Condor and Centineo occasionally find pockets of magic in the film's quieter moments to remind us why we fell in love with the hopeless romantics in the first place, and the supporting cast is still as strong as ever, but these moments are brief and serve as a mere reminder of the lost charm that

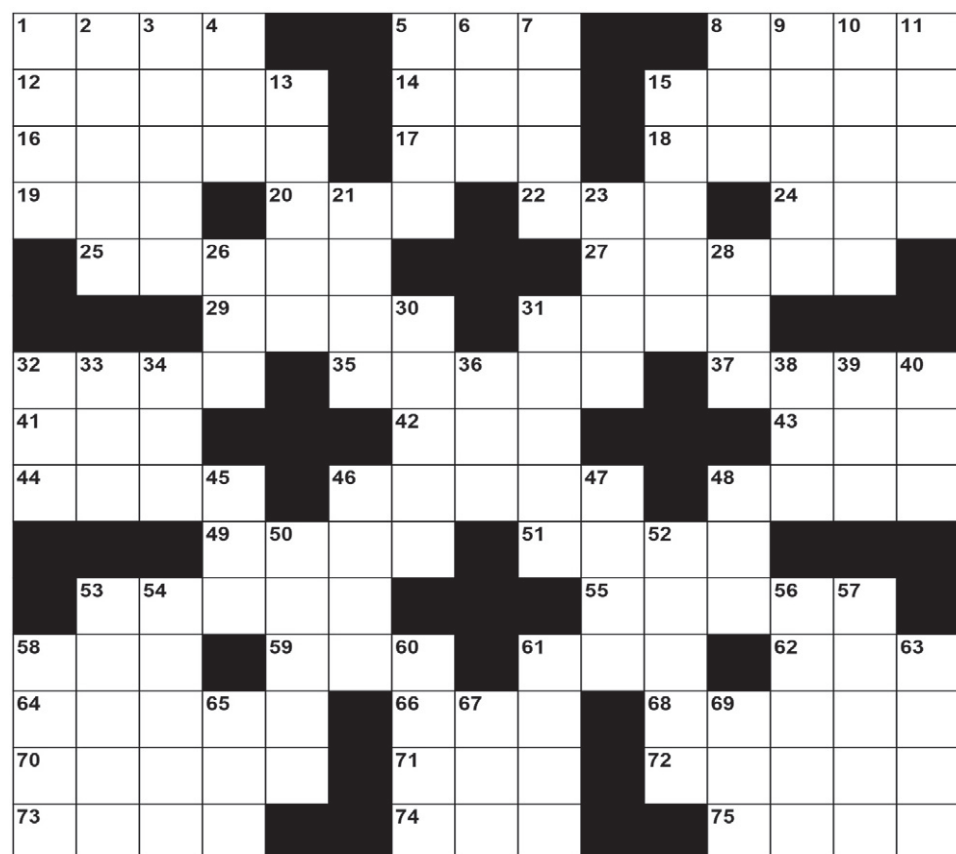
flowed through every minute of the first film's veins.

By the time we limp to the film's syrupy conclusion, it feels more like a depressive sink into the genre's oldest clichés than an accurate representation of the character's hard-earned growth.

It's all inoffensive enough to pass as this year's snuggly Valentine's Day fare, but the squandered potential of the series' initial freshness ensures you won't remember it the next time the holiday rolls around.



CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Become closed
- 5 Buddy
- 8 Lodge
- 12 Fake chocolate
- 14 Vane direction
- 15 View
- 16 Enrage
- 17 Expression of surprise
- 18 Florida City
- 19 Caviar
- 20 Abridged (abbr.)
- 22 Cone bearing evergreen or
the hair on a animal
- 24 Deer relative
- 25 Release
- 27 Long, skinny boat
- 29 Negative (prefix)
- 31 N.A. Indian
- 32 Grating sound
- 35 Fast growing tree whose leaves flutter
in the slightest breeze
- 37 Mr. Donahue
- 41 Stretch to make do
- 42 Downwind
- 43 Fall mo.
- 44 Palm tree of the Middle East which
bears an edible fruit
- 46 The syrup tree
- 48 Leered
- 49 Formal dance
- 51 Scalp
- 53 City in Nebraska
- 55 Lights

58 Whiz

59 And so forth
61 Clock time
62 Able
64 Lowest
66 Kimono sash
68 Tree with aromatic durable wood
70 Impressionist painter
71 Not (refix)
72 Drove
73 Parlay
74 Ingest
75 Look for

Down

1 Pit
2 National capital
3 Recommends
4 Foot extension
5 Bears rounded, white fleshed edible fruit that narrows at the stem
6 ` Has an opposite branching pattern and small;; dots on it's leaves
7 Sheet
8 Farm credit administration (abbr.)
9 Juliet's boyfriend
10 Fruit of this tree makes a nice tasting cider
11 Tall evergreen of Asia . It's wood is used for furniture and ship building
13 Strength
15 Cord
21 Second letter of the Greek alphabet
23 Computer picture button

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- 1 Pit
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26 Resin that exudes from certain trees
28 Pinch
30 Major world religion
31 Palm parts
32 Crimson
33 Precedes an alias
34 Put
36 High-school club
38 Heavy freight barge
39 Frost
40 Limited (abbr.)
45 Environmental protection agency
(abbr.)
46 Fosse
47 Snaky fish
48 Shade tree with arching, spreading
branches and serrated leaves
50 Gone With the Wind's Mr. Butler
52 Fasten
53 Large water body
54 Intended
56 Priest
57 Shovel
58 __ matter
60 Fruit of the pine family
61 Chocolate and peppermint candy
63 Journey
65 Visit
67 Scarf
69 Aurora

For answers, visit thedaonline.com

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PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DILICIYAH NUNES

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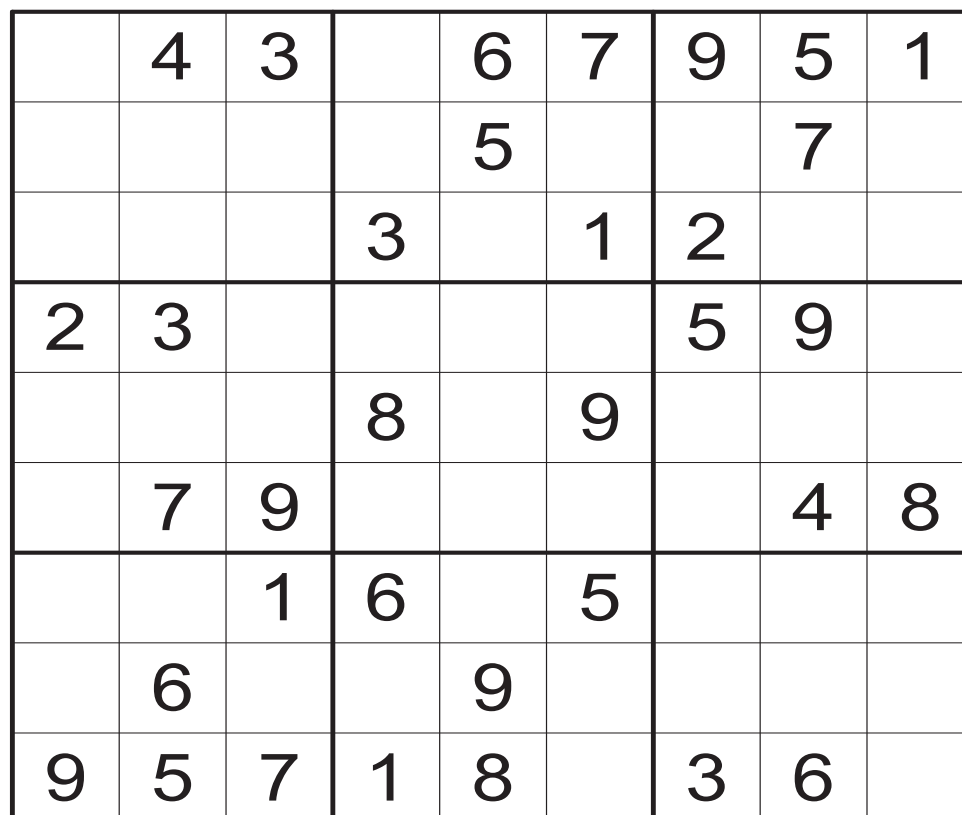
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SUDOKU

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3x3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9.

Sudoku puzzle brought to you by Jim Bumgardner at krazydad.com

For answers, visit thedaonline.com



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WVU baseball opens 2021 season against Georgia State

BY NICK KREMER
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 14 West Virginia baseball team kicks its season off with a four-game series against Georgia State. The first game of the series will be on Friday, and it will be the team's first game in 345 days.

A year ago, the Mountaineers were 11-5 and the team was about to play its first conference series when the season was canceled due to COVID-19.

This season, WVU will begin with its highest preseason ranking in program history at No. 14 in the nation and a sixth-place preseason ranking in the Big 12.

"We're not sneaking up on people the way we used to back in the old Hawley Field," WVU head coach Randy Mazey said. "Sixth place in our league should be top 20 in the nation."

Following the four-game series with Georgia State, the Mountaineers will compete in the Coastal Carolina baseball tournament. The tournament will include Kennesaw State, Coastal Carolina and Bryant University. Last season, the Mountaineers beat Kennesaw State 7-1 but lost to Coastal Carolina 14-2.

After the CCU tournament, West Virginia will host 15 straight home games from



PHOTO BY JAMES KNABLE

Mountaineers high five each other after defeating Liberty last season.

March 5 through March 28. The 15-game stretch will include 12 non-conference games and a three-game series with Kansas.

West Virginia is returning the majority of its roster from a season ago with the only losses being right-handed pitchers Dillon Meadows and Braden Zarbinsky to graduation. The team will also be

without right-handed pitcher Ryan Bergert as he is sidelined for the year with an injury.

With the three players missing, Mazey is still confident in his team and believes that he has some MLB potential on the field.

"We've got several guys on the team right now that wouldn't be here if the draft

would have been a normal draft," Mazey said.

WVU will likely look to Jackson Wolf on the mound, the senior left-handed pitcher was named to the National College Baseball Writers Association Preseason All-America team on Wednesday. A season ago, Wolf posted a 3-1 record along with a 1.05 ERA.

Wolf led the Mountaineers in strikeouts (27) and innings pitched (25.2) in the COVID-19 shortened season.

Of those returning, Matt McCormick (.364), Austin Davis (.322) and Tyler Doanes (.279) led the team in batting average in their 16 games last season. The trio also led in runs batted in with 11 for McCormick and 10 for

both Davis and Doanes.

In the field, McCormick and Doanes led the team in double plays with 10 each, while Tevin Tucker had seven double plays. Like Burgert, Tucker will miss the 2021 season with an injury.

The Mountaineers are scheduled to play 49 total games this season, with 24 being out of league play.

Flynn, Mountaineers gear up for postseason tournaments

BY DANNY KUHN
SPORTS WRITER

The West Virginia wrestling team heads into the final match of the regular season this Friday evening against No. 13 Iowa State in a big night for the program, as they push for NCAA Tournament bids this March.

Noah Adams — the highest ranked wrestler on the roster at No. 7 — has seen two losses out of his last five matchups, both coming against his Achilles' heel, Wyoming's No. 12 Stephen Buchanan. Both matches have been tightly contested between the two but with Buchanan earning the wins with late takedowns.

WVU head coach Tim Flynn is adamant that when Adams ultimately meets Buchanan for the third time

in the postseason, Adams will be ready to avenge his historic win streak, which was ultimately capped at 39-straight wins by Buchanan on Feb. 6.

"Noah [Adams] wrestled two complete matches. He just got worn down by the Wyoming kid [Buchanan] both times," Flynn said. "He knows what to expect and where to improve his game here and there. There's no doubt in my mind he can beat him the next time around."

As is the case with most wrestling seasons, the end of the regular season schedule usually is accompanied by injury issues, not just for the Mountaineers, but for programs across the country. During a season unlike any other, WVU was not able to avoid the injury bug entirely.

Redshirt junior Killian Cardinale, one of three Moun-



PHOTO BY SETH SEEBBAUGH

Redshirt junior Noah Adams locks up with his opponent against Buffalo last season.

taineers nationally-ranked at No. 25, has been dealing with injuries for a few weeks and did not compete last Sunday at the Cowboy Challenge.

The Bristow, Virginia, native looks to return to the mat on Friday in the Mountaineers' regular season finale.

He is currently on a five-match win streak and sits at 7-3 on the year.

"He's been banged up, but he'll see action on Friday," Flynn said. "He's been so good for us this year, and we need him down the stretch."

One part of the team that

will be integral to the Mountaineers finding success in the postseason this year is the so-called "young guns." Freshmen Ryan Sullivan and Peyton Hall are both nationally ranked, while Hall is tied with Adams for the team-lead in wins this season at 10. Despite Friday evening being Senior Night, both Sullivan and Hall will be in the lineup for Flynn.

"Everyone needs to get time in on the mat," Flynn said. "Freshman, sophomore, whatever. I don't care if you're a third-grader, we need all our guys to be ready to go for the tournaments."

In Friday's matchup with the Cyclones, the Mountaineers will have 20 wrestlers compete, with two in each weight class.

Following the regular season finale on Friday, West Virginia will turn its attention

to the Big 12 tournaments on March 6-7 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Big 12 features some of the best programs in the country, such as Iowa State, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas and other affiliates such as Wyoming and Northern Colorado.

The main goal at the Big 12 tournament is simple for WVU: qualify for the NCAA National Championships later in March. In the West Virginia wrestling program's history, there have been only three national champions: Scott Collins, in 1991, Dean Morrison, in 1994, and Greg Jones in 2002, 2004 and 2005.

The Big 12 has been given the second most automatic bids for the NCAA Tournament with 45, only trailing the Big 10's 80 automatic bids.

Kysre Gondrezick leading Mountaineers in points, assists during impressive season

BY ETHAN BOCK
SPORTS WRITER

As the regular season winds down for the West Virginia women's basketball team, redshirt senior guard Kysre Gondrezick continues to rack up awards and achievements.

In early February, Gondrezick was listed on the mid-season team for the 2021 Jersey Mike's Naismith Trophy, the award for the best player in college basketball. Gondrezick is the second Mountaineer in history to do so, with the first being Tynice Martin in 2020. Gondrezick is one of 30 players in the country to be recognized for the award.

"Kysre is a smart player, she knows how to use picks. She's one of the best players I've ever had on an all-ball pick," WVU head coach Mike Carey said. "She moves without the ball, she uses back door screens, she goes to the foul line. So, she scores it at all

three levels."

The guard from Benton Harbor, Michigan, has led the Mountaineers to a 16-3 record so far this season, alongside currently having a second-place spot in the Big 12 standings. Gondrezick also helped lead West Virginia to a program tie of 11 straight wins. WVU was named a No. 4 seed (14th overall) in the first bracket reveal by the NCAA women's tournament committee.

At the end of the 2019-20 season, Gondrezick was named to the All-Big 12 Honorable Mention list. That was motivation for Gondrezick leading into this season to receive the recognition of being one of the best players not only in the conference but in the country, too.

This season, Gondrezick leads West Virginia in points, assists and steals. Gondrezick averages 21.2 points per game on 44% shooting from the field, 38% from three-point range and 76% from the free

throw line. The redshirt senior also averages 4.8 assists per game and 2.1 steals.

On Jan. 30 against TCU, Gondrezick scored a career-high 30 points on 9-of-17 shooting. Gondrezick went a perfect 10-of-10 from the free throw line against the Horned Frogs.

In West Virginia's previous game, the Mountaineers' 11-game winning streak ended when Oklahoma snuck out a victory, 72-71. Gondrezick nearly recorded a triple-double, finishing the game with 19 points, eight assists and eight steals.

This marked the Mountaineers' first loss in nearly two months, but for Gondrezick and her teammates, it's an opportunity to begin another win streak during a crucial time for their season.

"I know for me, personally I need to get into the gym and just shoot. I didn't shoot the ball well down the stretch," Gondrezick said following the loss. "We've just got to look



PHOTO BY WVU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

West Virginia guard Kysre Gondrezick (2) attempts a jump shot against Kansas at the WVU Coliseum on Feb. 10.

at some film, lock in and get ready for the next game.

"It's a long season, we've done well so far. We just have to capitalize off of the mis-

takes we made and the unforced turnovers in this game and get ready for the next one," Gondrezick added.

Gondrezick will look to

continue her incredible season when TCU comes into the WVU Coliseum on Saturday afternoon. The game will be on ESPN+ at 2 p.m.

WVU heading to Lone Star State for battle with Texas

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY
SPORTS EDITOR

The No. 13 West Virginia Mountaineers are facing the No. 12 Texas Longhorns in a pivotal Big 12 battle on Saturday in Austin, Texas.

West Virginia (14-6, 7-4 Big 12) recently went toe-to-toe with the Oklahoma Sooners in a double overtime game in Morgantown. It was nearly the third straight top-25 win for WVU, but junior forward Derek Culver missed the game-winner as the clock expired, and the Mountaineers fell 91-90.

West Virginia struggled mightily from three-point range and from the free throw line throughout the game against the Sooners. WVU finished 7-of-24 (29%) from behind the arc and 11-of-21 (52%) from the free throw line.

Head coach Bob Huggins saw a lack of concentration in his team as the reason for the poor performance from the foul line.

"I've always found that

when you're a pretty good free throw shooting team, which we have been, and you go 11-for-21 from the free throw line, a lot of that is concentration," Huggins said following the loss on Saturday. "We didn't have that today."

West Virginia will have to shoot much better overall if it wants to avenge the loss it suffered against Texas (13-5, 7-4 Big 12) in early January. In the first meeting, Texas redshirt junior guard Andrew Jones nailed a three-point jumper in the final seconds to steal a huge win for the Longhorns, 72-70.

Since that victory, the Longhorns have gone 4-4 and have dealt with two game postponements and a cancellation in the Big 12/SEC Challenge against Kentucky on Jan. 30. Texas has won two in a row with a victory against Kansas State and most recently a win against TCU on Feb. 13.

Against the Horned Frogs, Jones led Texas with 19 points on 9-of-16 (56%) shooting from the field. The Longhorns

as a team shot 28-of-57 (49%) from the field and a woeful 6-of-21 (29%) from three-point range.

Texas currently ranks No. 3 in the Big 12 in field goal shooting at 45% through 18 games. The Longhorns also rank No. 2 in the conference in field goal defense with opponents shooting on average 41% from the field.

The Mountaineers are far less efficient in both categories as they rank No. 8 in field goal offense at 43% and No. 7 in field goal defense, with opponents shooting 43%. In the first meeting with Texas, the Mountaineers shot 24-of-62 (39%) from field goal range and just 9-of-25 (36%) from behind the arc. Texas had a clear advantage in the paint, outscoring WVU 40-22.

Prior to the game on Saturday, the Longhorns will face Oklahoma on Wednesday night and Iowa State on Thursday night. Both games are on the road for Texas.

Tipoff is at 3 p.m. on ABC from the Frank Erwin Center.

BUILDING COMMUNITY WELLBEING WHEREVER YOU MAY BE



How are you taking care of yourself and our community during these times?

The Office of Health Promotion and Wellness is recognizing students and employees who are working on wellbeing!



Niara Campbell

During Black History Month, WVU's Office of Health Promotion and Wellness is proud to recognize African American faculty, staff, and students who go above and beyond their typical roles at the University to help people feel connected, engaged, and safe in their community. It is our pleasure to recognize Niara Campbell, MPH, Program Coordinator in the Center for Learning, Advising and Student Success.

A member of the Student Success team wrote, "Niara understands how all aspects of a student's health communicate with each other--physical, mental, emotional and social. All of her programming carefully and explicitly targets at least one of these components, understanding and addressing the unique needs of the population that she supports. The intentionality of her programming echoes the intentionality of the relationships she builds with her students." One of the Rise WVU

programs is building an academic community for underrepresented students through engagement and mentorship.

In 2019, she led The Quad LLC's development, creating a safe space for Black, Hispanic, and Latin(x) students. As a diversity stakeholder on campus, she collaborates with community members and offices across campus to address black mental health and racial healing. She has been instrumental in developing and leading the Woman of Color committee for the Council for Gender Equity.

As a doctoral student in the Human and Community Development program, her research interest focuses on improving the interaction between institutions and minoritized communities. She is an avid volunteer, facilitating events addressing food insecurity, intimate partner violence survivor outreach and prenatal/postpartum care awareness. Overall, she is committed to enhancing communities, empowering individuals to contribute and ownership of their collective value.

Do you want to nominate someone for the Building Community Wellbeing Wherever You May Be campaign? Send your nomination to amsidwell@hsc.wvu.edu.



Postpone, cancel or play: The world of college basketball in 2020-21

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY
SPORTS EDITOR

This was supposed to be a challenging week for the West Virginia men's basketball team with four games against AP Top 25 teams in a span of seven days starting on Feb. 13.

Due to COVID-19 postponements in early January, the Mountaineers were placed on a two-week pause that saw matchups against Baylor, TCU and Oklahoma State get postponed.

Issues with COVID-19 at Baylor have caused the Bears to postpone their last six games as they plan to return to the court for the first time since Feb. 2 on Tuesday against Iowa State. Those six games that Baylor postponed sent a shock through college basketball as one of the clear contenders for a national championship has been on one of the lengthiest COVID-19 pauses in the Big 12 this season.

The Mountaineers have had four games postponed due to COVID-19 as its matchups with Baylor on Feb. 15 and Feb. 18 were affected by the current COVID-19 issues in Waco, Texas. Out of those four games that have been postponed, WVU has been able to reschedule one of them: Baylor on Feb. 25 in Waco, Texas.

Head coach Bob Huggins has expressed his concerns with the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the 2020-21 season.

"When I was a kid, they used to ask me, 'You're not afraid of very much are you?' I would say, 'I'm afraid of ghosts,' Huggins said on Jan. 21 prior to WVU's game against Kansas State. "I would say, 'I can't see them; I can't hit anything I can't see.' That's how I feel right now. I can't see this (COVID-19), and that scares me."

Only one team in the Big 12 has made it through nearly the entire season without COVID-19 issues: the Kansas Jayhawks. Kansas has had one

game postponed — Iowa State on Jan. 16 — and that game was rescheduled and played on Feb. 11.

In normal times, a team in the Big 12 plays 18 conference games. This season, currently only Kansas is scheduled to hit that mark. As scheduled, Baylor will fall short of the 18-game Big 12 slate as it only has three remaining games on its schedule with nine games played.

With teams struggling to play all 18 games, the Big 12 has a large dilemma on its hands — multiple Big 12 games remain unscheduled — prior to the conference tournament starting on March 10 in Kansas City, Missouri. The conference tournament is expected to play as scheduled, but Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby knows a lot can change before March.

"We have not had any discussions about canceling, but then we hadn't had any discussions last year about canceling," Bowlsby said in an interview with Dallas News. "Those are things that you try to gather the best information you can, and then you make the decisions in real time. Should that ever become a topic of discussion, it's probably going to be right up against the tournament."

The college basketball season in the Big 12 is scheduled to end on Feb. 27. That gives the Big 12 and the teams with postponed games still not rescheduled nearly two weeks to make up all games remaining on their respective schedules. If there are not further postponements, every team in the Big 12 — except Baylor and TCU — will play at least 15 conference games by the end of the season.

Of course, there is a chance that teams could make up all of their postponed games during that time between the end of the scheduled regular season and the beginning of the conference tournament on March 10. West Virginia has yet to face TCU or Baylor



PHOTO BY WVU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

The West Virginia men's basketball team huddles prior to its game against Kansas on Feb. 6.

"We're now faced with the questions around what games do you make up and which ones you don't make up."

-Bob Bowlsby, Big 12 Commissioner

once this season, but games are scheduled for the Mountaineers against the Bears and Horned Frogs before the end of the year.

The situation surrounding college basketball and the Big 12 continues to be fluid and unpredictable with COVID-19. With the conference tournament and NCAA Tournament less than a month away, things are becoming more concrete, but issues continue to rise with the pandemic.

"We're now faced with the questions around what games do you make up and which ones you don't make up," Bowlsby said in an interview. "We don't have any answers on that just yet, but we're working on it."



PHOTO BY WVU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

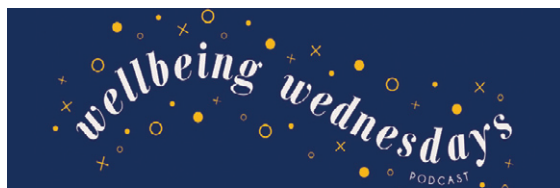
Junior forward Derek Culver puts up a shot against Texas at home on Jan. 9.



The DA Podcasts



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