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# Chedester steps down as UPD head

## Phil Scott named interim chief

BY JARED SERRE  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After two years as chief of the West Virginia University Police Department, William "W.P." Chedester is stepping down.

Chedester, who has served as the department's chief of police since 2018, cited health reasons as the reason for his departure from the role.

"After careful consideration in consultation with my family, health care providers and WVU colleagues, I have made the difficult decision to step down from my position as University Police chief," Chedester said in a statement.

"It truly has been a privilege to lead the University Police team these past two years, and I look forward to continuing to protect and serve our campus community in my new role while focusing on my health at the same time."

Chedester joined the department in 2002, serving in a variety of roles before being elevated to chief following the retirement of Bob Roberts. Chedester will continue working as a lieutenant with the department.

Phil Scott, who currently serves as the department's deputy chief, will lead the department on an interim basis.

Scott, who joined the WVU Po-

lice Department in 2011, previously worked with the Morgantown Police Department. He spent six of those years as the chief of police.

"Obviously I'm not going to turn the department on its ear or anything," Scott told the Daily Athenaeum in a phone interview. "We have a good department, good people. We've got a good foundation there, so there's not going to be any radical changes of any sort."

"There's always room to improve, and if we see an opportunity, I'm not going to hold back from doing that just because I'm the interim. If something needs done, we'll do it."

The University plans to conduct a



PHOTO BY GREG ELLIS

William "W.P." Chedester has served as chief of WVUPD since 2018.

national search for a permanent replacement. Scott told The DA that he has not been involved in any discus-



PHOTO VIA WVU

Phil Scott, WVUPD interim chief of police.

sions regarding a timeframe for hiring the new chief.

# Huggins says transfer rules changes could cause chaos

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY  
SPORTS EDITOR

Sweeping changes may be coming through the NCAA, and none may be more impactful than the potential changes to the transfer portal.

Many college coaches have seen the possibility of the transfer rules changing as something that is wrong for college athletics. West Virginia head men's basketball coach Bob Huggins has taken the opportunity to voice his opinion on the subject when asked.

"I think it's going to be like professional sports in just trading pieces," Huggins said. "I think it's going to be what you see from now on in peo-

ple just grabbing guys from the transfer portal and then guys going in the transfer portal."

Usually when a student-athlete transfers, there is a long, arduous process that a player goes through to become eligible. When student-athletes transfer to a new school, they have to sit out a year before being eligible to play for their new university if they meet certain NCAA standards.

With rule changes stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, many players in college basketball are getting waivers to be immediately eligible the first year that they transfer. Now in terms of former West Virginia forward Oscar Tshiebwe, who transferred midseason this year, there is no possibility of him playing during the 2020-21 season for head coach John

Calipari and the Kentucky Wildcats.

A rule change hasn't been adopted by the NCAA yet as a vote is expected in January to decide on the possibility of permanent changes to the transfer rules.

Huggins compared the possibility of the new transfer portal rules to that of professional free agency and trading. Huggins also believes there will be dedicated departments in programs once this new way of college athletics takes full shape.

"I don't know if it's become a science yet; I think it is going to come to that," Huggins said. "I think people are going to be hired to just evaluate players from there."

Huggins sees recruiting taking a major shift in athletics and how things will change dramatically by

these potential rule changes with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"What's going on with the immediate transfer, eligibility and all the other things in our game, I think guys are just going to sit down and evaluate off of film," Huggins said of recruiting changes. "I think the majority of what's going to happen is just stealing from other programs, stealing isn't the right word, I guess. Taking guys from other programs."

There are three conditions that student-athletes must meet right now in order to transfer to another program from the NCAA:

- They are transferring to a Division II or III school, or they are transferring to a Division I school in any sport other than baseball, men's or women's basketball, football (Foot-

ball Bowl Subdivision) or men's ice hockey. If they are transferring to a Division I school for any of the previously-listed sports, they may be eligible to compete immediately if they were not recruited by the original school and have never received an athletics scholarship.

- They are academically and athletically eligible at their previous four-year school.

- They receive a transfer-release agreement from their previous four-year school.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has brought immediate changes throughout college athletics, the potentially new transfer rules might be the most significant changes that come to college sports in these eventful times.

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## WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

## FRIDAY 1/22

MOSTLY CLOUDY  
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## SATURDAY 1/23

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HIGH 28° - LOW 18°



## SUNDAY 1/24

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HIGH 38° - LOW 33°



## CRIME REPORT

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JAN. 17

7:17 p.m. | Clear by Citation  
WVU Oakland Hall East  
Drug Incident.

JAN. 17

8:57 p.m. | Clear by Citation  
WVU Braxton Tower  
Drug Incident.

JAN. 17

10:12 p.m. | Clear by Citation  
Grant Ave. / Third St.  
Traffic Stop.

JAN. 17

10:38 p.m. | Closed - Resolved  
Mountainlair Parking Garage  
Hit and Run.

JAN. 18

1:31 a.m. | Closed - Resolved

WVU Brooke Tower  
Fire Alarm.

JAN. 18

2:14 a.m. | To Investigations  
WVU Brooke Tower  
Destruction of Property.

JAN. 18

2:00 p.m. | Closed - Resolved  
WVU Art Museum  
Alarm Condition.

JAN. 18

6:37 p.m. | Clear by Warning  
Beechurst Ave. / Hough St.  
Traffic Stop.

JAN. 18

10:58 p.m. | Clear by Citation  
WVU University Park East  
Drug Incident.

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## SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENTS



Senator Joe Manchin  
@Sen\_JoeManchin



...

I am so proud of @ladygaga's beautiful rendition of the #NationalAnthem at the #Inauguration 46 ceremony. Afterwards we talked about her family's Wheeling roots and she shared how proud she is of her #WV family.



1:41 PM · Jan 20, 2021 from Washington, DC · Twitter for iPhone



Lily  
@lilianafara

...

wvu canceling classes bc of weather but not covid? ok

10:01 AM · Jan 20, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

3 Retweets 27 Likes



jillian @jillian\_cheek · 4h  
Replying to @lilianafara

...



5



mother nature said "if you think those kids are going too class, think again"



WVU's INDEPENDENT  
STUDENT NEWSPAPER

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# Semester begins, returns students to unconventional education

**BY CHRISTINA RUFO**  
STAFF WRITER

With colder weather coming and many classes continuing online, students are adjusting to the first week back on campus. For one freshman, who has all her classes online, the shift to all online classes has been difficult to maneuver.

"It's a lot harder," said Lauryn Baker, a freshman nursing student. "I was expecting to have at least a few of my classes online just as before, but having everything online is hard to adjust back to, especially because some of my teachers don't even lecture, so I'm stuck on a screen, with little to no direction or instruction."

Although some classes

were online last semester for freshmen, many first-year students had a mix of in-person and online classes. However, many classes have been moved remotely online this semester, causing students to further adapt to a new learning environment.

"In person classes make me feel more connected with the criteria I'm learning," Baker said. "Sitting and looking at a screen for hours upon end with no one talking back to you in some instances can sometimes feel like I'm not learning anything at all."

For upperclassmen who have been remotely online since last semester, the adjustment doesn't feel as extreme.

"I think it's actually a bit easier to adjust to online classes this semester," said Kaeli Ricottilli, a sophomore journal-

ism student. "We were kind of thrown online last spring, and by fall there were still catches and unforeseen issues. Now, I think everyone is pretty much used to it, so it's a little more comfortable."

However, many students feel adjusting back to campus second semester is more difficult than before.

"The first semester was great for me," Baker said. "Transitioning from online high school to partially online university/hybrid classes was a step up in the right direction. Now having to adjust back to completely online feels as if I'm taking a leap back for sure."

According to Ricottilli, the online setup sometimes makes it hard to get into the right headspace and treat it like a regular learning

environment.

With the weather being unpredictable, it can be a challenge for students to get together and interact in a socially distanced environment, too.

"Cold weather in general makes me unmotivated to go outside, adding that my classes are all online, I feel confined to my dorm, or at least to a space that has indoor wifi," Baker said.

Regardless of whether or not students are happy to have more classes online, the second semester is bound to be different than last during such unprecedented times.

"I think it's easier for me to get into the swing of things this semester," Ricottilli said. "Last semester was the first with classes that were actually planned to be online, but there

*"In person classes make me feel more connected with the criteria I'm learning. Sitting and looking at a screen for hours upon end with no one talking back to you in some instances can sometimes feel like I'm not learning anything at all."*

*-Lauryn Baker, a freshman nursing student*

were still adjustments to be made. There were also a lot of firsts for everyone last semester and a lot of questions that

could only be answered by experiencing something and adjusting from there."

## WVU plans to minimize COVID-19 spread with new and old methods this semester

**BY CRYSTAL CHECK**  
STAFF WRITER

The University is continuing to screen students and staff on campus for COVID-19 using the same testing as last semester as well as new self-administer tests, water testing and vaccinations for those within the priority groups.

In combination with COVID-19 tests that are administered by healthcare professionals, WVU has introduced self-administered tests this year that allow students and faculty to swab their own nasal passages under the guidance of a trained medical professional.

Dr. Carmen Burrell, medical director of WVU Medicine Urgent Care and Student Health Services, said testing has been ultimately successful this semester, with only about 1% of faculty and students combined testing positive for COVID-19.

"There's an instructor at the table, who kind of walks them through the steps to self-swab," Burrell said. "They walk you through opening up the kit, what you need, how you swab yourself and then you collect the specimen, put it in the container, fill it out, then



A student is tested for COVID-19 during intake testing in the Mountainlair Ballrooms before the fall 2020 semester.

drop it in the back to be sent off."

The University has also been testing water samples for any traces of the virus in order

to monitor for COVID-19 and then prioritize testing where it is needed most, Burrell said.

This testing began last summer and is run by the WVU

COVID-19 wastewater testing team, who take daily samples of wastewater from student housing and other buildings on campus then look for the

presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19.

According to the University, the collection team includes Timothy Driscoll, assistant

professor of biology, Gordon Smith and Brian Hendricks, of epidemiology, and Emily Garner, of civil and environmental engineering.

"This can tell us the trend of infection among a population," Driscoll said in the article. "Ideally and theoretically, we can use this as a predictor. If we see COVID in the wastewater start to increase, we can raise the alarms and have more targeted public health interventions, such as increased testing in that area."

Vaccinations are another way that the University can control the spread of COVID-19. As the vaccines are becoming available in the state for those ages 80 or older, Burrell said that WVU Medicine has already vaccinated some staff who were within that age requirement and will continue to do so for staff and students as the vaccine becomes available to more people.

"We have been vaccinating the staff and faculty who qualify within the age group right now, our first vaccination clinic was on Dec. 30," Burrell said. "For every week, we get a certain allotment that is sent out to those eligible employees."

PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE



# WVU robotics team qualifies for final round of NASA Centennial Challenge

BY GABRIELLA BROWN  
NEWS EDITOR

The WVU robotics team is going out of this world as it moves on to the final round of the Space Robotics Challenge, a two-year long NASA Centennial Challenge, to compete for a \$185,000 grand prize.

To qualify for this final round, the team competed in the Space Robotics Challenge Phase 2. This phase of the competition required the team to design autonomous robots to aid in a simulated in-situ resource utilization mission to the moon, a process that involves gathering and using materials unique to other worlds.

"The challenge is that we would want to have future autonomous robots be capable of going out and finding materials that are valuable for things such as building structures or making rocket fuel," said Jason Gross, associate professor and associate chair for research in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and robotics team leader. "The competition was centered around that theme."

Phase 2 was broken into three unique problem-solving tasks, including successfully locating and reporting the lo-



A model created by the WVU robotics team for Phase 2 of the competition.

cations of valuable resources using the team's virtual lunar rover, extracting and collecting those resources, and transporting them.

Gross said the initial competition was open to anyone who wanted to compete, drawing in 114 teams from all over the world. WVU's team finished in the top 22 and was one of six to be awarded \$15,000. After scoring 35 points with the baseline to

qualify for the final round set at 20 points, the team has high hopes for the final round.

"When I learned we were in the top six teams out of 114 teams in the competition that qualified, I was really happy," said Cagri Kilic, a team member and aerospace engineering Ph.D. student. "We are competing at the international level... It's difficult to get this success."

Gross said any prize money

received will be used to support research and education initiatives in robotics at WVU. He said the money received so far will likely be used to help the team through the final round, including investing in computers or other equipment.

When the COVID-19 pan-

demic hit, Gross said they quickly found alternatives that allowed them to work remotely while still working efficiently. He said because of the pandemic, the team was introduced to additional tools that allowed them to work remotely. This also allowed the team to dedicate more time at

night to the project.

"Speaking for a lot of our team members, it was easier for us to work on this project remotely at night," Gross said. "Sometimes, we would be up all night whenever we had things like Zoom available."

Bernardo Martinez, a team member and aerospace engineering Ph.D. student, said the team faced several challenges throughout the competition, but working alongside his team to overcome each challenge helped him learn a lot.

"We were able to, from scratch, make the robot do automatized tasks and we had some good discussions with everyone in the robotics team. There were always good ideas being suggested," Martinez said. "I would say we have good chances to do well and bring some acknowledgement to our group nationally, and hopefully bring a prize to WVU as well."

The final phase of the competition begins on Jan. 25, and full details are set to be released around that time. Gross said the final round is currently set to run through July.

PHOTO VIA WVU ROBOTICS TEAM

## WVU receives \$150,000 grant for drinking water testing program

BY HANNAH HEBEL  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

The WVU Institute for Water Security and Science has received a grant to help West Virginians better understand their water through testing and community engagement.

"It's important that we have effective drinking water in West Virginia for many reasons," said Jason Hubbard, director of the Institute for Water Security and Science. "One is to bring people that drink water, which is about all of us, peace of mind that the water they're drinking is safe and secure."

Hubbard, who is also a professor of hydrology and water quality, said that a way to talk to and educate people is through testing, as it can give quantitative evidence about

the quality of their water.

"I very much believe that the way to encourage water safety and security in our state, but elsewhere, is through education," Hubbard said. "So really this is all about what WVU does best."

WVU received the \$150,000 grant through the Equitrans Midstream Foundation and will host their community workshops where the corporation conducts its natural gas operations.

The program will expand over three years, with the first year of the program focusing on Marion and Harrison Counties and the second year focusing on Tyler and Wetzel Counties. For the third year, the team will work with Doddridge and Ritchie Counties.

Participants in these counties will be equipped with a drinking water test kit and will be able to interpret their

results.

According to Hubbard, they are going to be initially testing for dissolved solids, conductivity, hardness, E. Coli, sulfate, calcium, magnesium, iron, fluoride and pH.

"I want there to be flexibility about the whole thing, so that we can adjust to meet the needs of the population — the needs of the people," Hubbard said.

Hubbard said that they are currently working on more grants to help spread their program across the state.

Due to COVID-19, the testing and workshops may be delayed to later this year.

"It is so much less about science and the numbers and publishing, and so much more about the people and giving something of value to our citizens — taking care of our people and making sure that they have safe water," Hubbard said.

## BUILDING COMMUNITY WELLBEING WHEREVER YOU MAY BE



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

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Nicholas McCardle

Nicholas is a reporter for Channel Kindness, a digital platform sponsored by Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to support the mental health of young people by working with them to create a kinder and braver world. Channel Kindness reporters create written, graphic and audio content that is shared with a broad audience.

Nicholas was asked to expand three stories he wrote for the digital platform. Those stories became three chapters in the book, "Channel Kindness: Stories of Kindness and Community," which is currently ranked #2 on the New York Times Young Adult Hardcover List.

Nicholas' chapters feature West Virginians supporting their communities. He wrote about Claire Pittman (an artist hosting summer art programs from her home), Kensey Bergdorf (a WVU student who developed a guidebook to deal with grief) and Dr. Breanna Nolan (a pediatrician who implemented a physical activity and health education program in Wetzel County).

When asked about how his work as a reporter informs his perspectives on mental health at WVU, Nicholas replied, "College is a time of change and growth. It's important to be kind to our Mountaineer community. It's been a challenging time. Showing compassion is the key to getting through this." He said that WVU "... harbors an environment that allows people to be who they are." His advice for students is to "... use this time at the University to grow as a person, be exposed to a diverse community, and be aware of resources on campus that support wellbeing."

Dr. Erik Carlton, Associate Dean for Professional Programs in the School of Public Health, wrote, "We are so pleased with [Nicholas'] efforts in the community and on behalf of others. He sees far beyond himself and his career to the true impact he can make."

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





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# CULTURE

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## Alum sees dreams play out on the big screen

**BY LADIMIR GARCIA**  
STAFF WRITER

Giuseppe Lucarelli, the creator of Mountain Wind Productions and a West Virginia University alumnus, has released a new film called “Checkmate.”

Lucarelli credits his time at WVU as one reason for his success in creating Mountain Wind Productions and eventually releasing a film like “Checkmate.”

“It’s such a supportive, positive environment,” Lucarelli said when talking about WVU.

“Checkmate” became available for purchase in stores in November 2020. Along with Lucarelli, other WVU alumni were involved in the creation of the film.

Lucarelli hopes that because of his success, he can become a resource for students interested in going into this particular industry.

“I want to be a resource for, especially alums, students

and alums, who are looking to do this kind of thing, to help them avoid some of the pitfalls that a lot of people fall into,” Lucarelli said.

Additionally, Lucarelli said that students need to learn and perfect their craft as much as possible and look at the business side of the industry.

“When you talk to your professors, work with them to learn the business aspects,” Lucarelli said. “Especially with crew, I think actors tend to come out with a better sense of a business.”

According to Lucarelli, those students who want to become producers should try to learn about management and always try to ask questions. Lucarelli also said that students should not lose sight of their goals and should not be afraid to make mistakes and learn from them.

“Set the goals, set up a plan and stick to the plan,” Lucarelli said. “Each project is a stepping stone to get you

where you want to go.”

On what it was like creating his own production company, Lucarelli said there is no such thing as an overnight success.

“With every success, it requires that much more work to get to where you want to be,” Lucarelli said.

Mountain Wind Productions provides an array of services, from production services to risk management.

“Every day looks a little different; one day I’m editing, one day I’m trying to figure out how to do something on Facebook,” Lucarelli said. “I could be writing something; I could be doing an interview.”

According to Lucarelli, he is his company, and when possible, he hires independent contractors to help him.

Lucarelli is also working on a horror pilot for a possible new series.

“The ultimate goal is to get the series commissioned,” Lucarelli said. “Either by us



COURTESY OF GIUSEPPE LUCARELLI

Giuseppe Lucarelli, creator of Mountain Wind Productions and a West Virginia University alumnus.

raising enough money to do it on our own, or ideally, we get it in front of the right people.”

Lucarelli said the number of episodes this possible series could have is undecided. He does, however, remain optimistic about the future of the pilot.



COURTESY OF GIUSEPPE LUCARELLI

The “Checkmate” movie poster.

## Winter weather offers unique outdoor adventures

**BY CRAIG WEIMER**  
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

Many people look at winter’s bare trees and brown hills and see nothing but a cause for depression. Others look at it and see a challenge.

“Have you ever heard of Type 2 Fun?” said Brett Hagerty, program manager for Adventure WV. “It’s the idea of doing something that’s harder or potentially a little bit riskier — certainly winter camping and backpacking is that way.”

Hagerty was glad to give tips for hiking and camping in Monongalia’s wilderness despite the cold weather.

“In general, anything you do in the winter is going to require more knowledge, skill and gear,” Hagerty said. “When you stop, and you aren’t exercising anymore, and you have to keep yourself warm, you basically are spending 100% of your time focusing on keeping yourself

warm — whether that’s exercising, sleeping in a sleeping bag or layering with clothing.”

Conversely, Hagerty said warmer weather does not require the same preparation.

“That’s compared to, say, when it’s warmer out and you might spend some time sitting around and chatting or hammocking, you can’t do that very well in the winter,” Hagerty said. “You get cold really fast, so you’ve got to focus on keeping warm.”

Adding to the challenge, Hagerty said, is the shorter day length of the winter season. With the night constantly creeping in, campers have to go to extra lengths to stave off the freezing temperatures.

“I have, at times, gotten in my sleeping bag and been in there for 12 hours,” Hagerty said. “And it’s hard to sleep with that, so you’ve sort of got to deal with it emotionally and mentally.”

So, why spend your free

time freezing in the woods when you could stay warm and dry in your nice dorm or apartment? Steven Selin, a professor in WVU’s division of Forestry and National Resources, is an avid defender of cold days.

“Winter is different, it’s cool. It’s a chance to experience nature in a much more wild way,” Selin said. “You get a lot more solitude. Chances are you won’t run into many people when you’re out there. It’s also a chance to challenge yourself. If you’re successful, you’ll feel a neat sense of accomplishment.”

Always keen on keeping students safe while on their winter adventures, Selin also had some tips for winter camping and hiking.

“You need to plan ahead,” Selin said. “You need to be a little more prepared than you do, you know, for summer camping. It’s a lot more serious; it’s not a splash and gig-



PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

A winter wonderland near Blackwater Falls State Park.

gle thing. Usually, people who want to winter camp have already done some summer camping and want to take it to another level.

According to Selin, winter camping requires more precautions than summer camping.

“Planning ahead, going with a buddy and leaving word that you’re going somewhere are important,” Selin said. “I would encourage people to try [winter camping] first in their backyard, just to make sure their systems are working.”

Selin said the most important things to do when winter camping is to layer with warm clothing, insulate and use a proper sub-zero sleeping bag. Students can rent all the necessary equipment for their adventures at WVU’s Outdoor Recreation Center.



Editor:  
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## OPINION

# WVU has dropped the ball and forgotten about students' genuine social needs

BY EMILY REXROAD  
OPINION EDITOR

This may only be my second semester on campus, but I can tell when the University makes new rules or fails to change policies that don't sit well with students, especially for those either living on campus or in the Morgantown area.

It's been decided that until further notice the Student Rec Center will be closed and all activities and events have been

canceled until April 12. However, many students, including myself, believe that this facility should've been reopened. If students are denied access to this resource on campus, they should be refunded the entire portion that goes towards running the facility.

Recently, Jakob Janoski, a journalism student, crafted a petition to convince President Gordon Gee and others in charge of Campus Recreation to allow students to use

the Student Rec Center to ensure that students are going to a gym that is adhering to COVID-19 guidelines. There are many precautions that can be taken such as reduced capacity, sign-ups much like the private rooms at the library and cleaning equipment following each use.

The petition has surpassed 2,600 signatures, so I think students deserve a response and possibly some change with the Student Rec Center's availability.

Another disappointment on-campus residents have faced is the continuing denial of guests in residential buildings. At the very least, students should be able to allow other on-campus residents in their rooms. Most likely, these students are already hanging out in classrooms or eating together. I understand COVID-19 is a large concern, and it's going to be like that for a while, but if students are already with these people, what harm is there to let them in the dorms?

It's hard for undergraduate students to find friends



PHOTO BY MICHAEL WHALEN

The Student Rec Center has been closed for students looking to get in a workout or play pickup sports.

their first or even second year on campus. It's even harder when you're a student during a pandemic to find friends. Little things like this could really make a difference in students' lives.

Even though a spring break trip wasn't what I was planning on this semester, it's extremely disappointing to see that the University completely abandoned the idea of letting students have a much deserved

ing break. Some sporadic wellness days aren't going to cut it since many students will still be working to catch up on those days.

An easy solution to this problem was to treat it like the fall semester. The University could've sent everyone home for break, much like Thanksgiving break, and use the following weeks as online instructional days with online final exams. There wouldn't

be worry about students potentially bringing the virus back to campus and students could've had the time to relax with friends and family after a difficult semester.

This semester may not be everything students have hoped for, but for now, we can only hope that this upcoming fall can be better.



PHOTO BY JAMES KNABLE

Campus residence halls, like Seneca Hall, have put strict restrictions in place.

# Anne Hathaway and Chiwetel Ejiofor shine in HBO's 'Locked Down,' a COVID-19 rom-com

BY ZACH DELUCA  
STREAMING CRITIC

It's a risky move from director Doug Liman and writer Steven Knight to release a film so heavily involved with the current pandemic to start 2021. Not just because it offers the very opposite of escapism, but for fear that it has anything truly valuable to say given our position still tight within its deadly grasp. That being said, "Locked Down" proves to be surprisingly playful, finding a trace of oddball optimism in our future past the crisis.

Paxton (Chiwetel Ejiofor) and Linda (Anne Hathaway) have just broken up, but the mandatory lockdown imposed in London has them trapped together in their home with fresh wounds and frazzled thoughts. In between sessions of downing wine and enduring soulless Zoom calls, they bicker in frantic monologues

in an attempt to untangle their lives from one another. That is, until it leads to a cooperative plan to steal a £3 million diamond seemingly too convenient to not be fate.

It's a lot to juggle, but Hathaway and Ejiofor aren't afraid to live in the story's more theatrical moments with enough charm to keep the melodrama digestible.

For those who enjoyed Hathaway's turn in "Ocean's 8," fans will find her evolved here in a meatier and more unhinged role, and Ejiofor ceaselessly matches her passion as they propel each other into further zany wrinkles of their range.

Much of the script's she-nanigans wouldn't work without their commitment, and luckily, Knight's latest resembles the clever confinement of his indie hit "Locke" more so than the disastrous "Serenity." What silliness does persist from his previous misfire is in service of a movie that not only



Anne Hathaway and Chiwetel Ejiofor star in HBO's "Locked Down."

understands its own madness, but knows how much we do as well.

What other film will you find two Hollywood A-listers engaging in animated argu-

ments about grocery lists and baking bread while dressed in pajamas for the near entirety of the runtime? It's possibly the best representation of lockdown life in the latest

string of films taking place during COVID-19, and Liman's off-kilter approach pulls together the messiness with vibrant energy.

At times, the inconsis-

tency of the material is hard to ignore. The formation of the heist plan is built on so many conveniences that it loses any real sense of being organic. The film also goes all in on a painfully unfunny Edgar Allan Poe joke that's reappearance reveals the thin line between intoxicating silliness and grating annoyance.

At its best, "Locked Down" is a freeing experience that finds joy indulging the fantastical desires that being pent-up for so long creates.

It's easy to become clouded in these desperate times of what we need to feel whole again, and watching Paxton and Linda stroll through the Harrods food hall like it's their own private kitchen becomes a striking image for the excitement of our future. There is newfound appreciation to be discovered in liberation.

The film is now available exclusively on HBO Max.

PHOTO VIA HBO



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CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13					14				15
16				17					18				19
20							21	22				23	
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52					53	54				55			56
58				59				60	61	62			
	63							64				65	
		66						67				68	

- Across**

  - 1 Possessive pronoun
  - 4 What falls
  - 8 U.S. Air Force
  - 12 Ram's mate
  - 13 Island
  - 14 Hesitated
  - 16 Ensued
  - 18 Baseball's Strawberry
  - 20 Stadium
  - 21 Cheese
  - 23 "To the right!"
  - 24 Twitch
  - 25 Lode yield
  - 26 Nearly horizontal entrance
  - 27 Opp. of glossy
  - 29 Exercise clothes material
  - 32 Hole punching tool
  - 33 Pull
  - 34 Where people were at crime time
  - 38 Things of the same age
  - 40 Long, deep crack
  - 41 Seniors
  - 42 American beauty with thorns
  - 43 Container
  - 44 Eagerly
  - 46 Posttraumatic stress disorder
- Down**

  - 1 Zeus' wife
  - 2 Pitcher
  - 3 Put into order again
  - 4 Shrub or bush with white, purple and pink blossoms
  - 5 Time zone
  - 6 Brew
  - 7 \_\_\_ government
  - 8 U.S. Department of Agriculture
  - 9 Pillow covering
  - 10 Atmosphere
  - 11 British princess
  - 15 Colored
  - 17 Section
- 19 Allow
  - 22 Thief's hideout
  - 25 Musical composition
  - 26 Center of rotation
  - 27 Spray weapon
  - 28 Absent without leave
  - 29 Popular condiment
  - 30 Pushing up sometimes
  - 31 Otherwise
  - 33 Tortoise and the \_\_\_
  - 35 Shiny yellow flower
  - 36 Also,a part of the eye
  - 37 Mail
  - 39 Identical
  - 40 Quit a poker hand
  - 42 Washing off
  - 45 Eastern state
  - 46 Fruit
  - 47 Sport's official
  - 48 Greek god of war
  - 49 \_\_\_ for (took care of)
  - 51 Book holder
  - 53 Persia
  - 54 Trumpet shaped flower
  - 56 Corn bread
  - 57 Air pollution
  - 59 Copy
  - 61 Neither's partner
  - 62 Drink

For answers, visit [thedaonline.com](http://thedaonline.com)

PET OF THE DAY



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LEIGHA SHREVE

Meet Maverick, AKA Mav, a German Shepherd who will be 1 year old in late August. He loves to play ball and spend any time outside as long as he's with family. His favorite toy is an old raggedy reindeer that he carries around the house! Maverick knows to sit, lay down and paw (as of now). Mav's favorite treat- he loves chicken bacon!

Submit your favorite pet photo at [danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu](mailto:danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu)

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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](http://krazydad.com)

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5			9			8	3	
7					6		4	
	9	4		5	3	7		6
	6							7
3		8				6		4
4							9	
1		7	5	3		9	6	
	8		4					3
	3	9			2			5

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# SPORTS

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## McBride, Mountaineers returning to court after COVID-19 hiatus

BY NICK KREMER  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

On Saturday, No. 14 West Virginia will take on Kansas State in Manhattan, Kansas. This will be the first game for WVU in two weeks due to COVID-19 issues that postponed the team's last three games.

West Virginia's last game was a loss in Morgantown to then-No. 4 Texas, thanks to a last-second three-pointer from Longhorns guard Andrew Jones.

In the matchup with Texas, West Virginia (9-4, 2-3 Big 12) led for the majority of the game including a five-point lead with just under a minute and a half left in the game.

Kansas State (5-10, 1-6 Big 12) is currently on a five-game losing streak with its most recent loss coming against Oklahoma on Tuesday by a score of 76-50. Da-Juan Gordon led the Wildcats in scoring with 13 points.

Kansas State has had its own COVID-19 troubles — having players miss each of its last three games — the Wildcats have also had to postpone a game against Iowa State. In the team's most recent game, the Wildcats had just nine scholarship players available to play.

Miles McBride is leading the Mountaineers in scoring with 15 points per game. Derek Culver is second on the team in scoring and is currently averaging a double-double with 14 points and 11 rebounds per game.

Both McBride and Culver sit in the top 15 in the Big 12 in scoring this season, Culver is also leading the conference in rebounding and is the only player averaging double-digit rebounds.

Kansas State has just three players averaging more than 10 points per game this season, Gordon, Nijel Pack and Mike McGuirl, who is leading the team with 12 points

per game. McGuirl is coming off of a rough performance against Oklahoma in which he scored only three points, shooting just 1-for-9.

The Wildcats are an under-sized team with their leading rebounder being Gordon, a 6-foot-4 guard who is averaging seven rebounds per game.

The Mountaineers are averaging 75 points per game and holding their opponents to 70 points per game, while the Wildcats are averaging only 66 points per game and giving up 72 to their opponents.

West Virginia has yet to play Kansas State this season, but in the last matchup, the Mountaineers came away with a 66-55 win. In the last four games between the two, the Wildcats have won three.

The game will tip off at 4 p.m. and will be televised nationally on ESPN2.



PHOTO BY WVU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

West Virginia guard Miles McBride (4) drives against Texas on Jan. 9.

## Two Mountaineer swimmers earn Big 12 awards

BY NICK KREMER  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

On Wednesday, the West Virginia men's swim and dive team had two student-athletes collect Big 12 awards as senior David Dixon was awarded Co-Big 12 Men's Swimmer of the Week and junior PJ Lenz earned Diver of the Week.

The duo is coming off of big performances in the Backyard Brawl against Pittsburgh; Dixon finished first in both the 100- and 200-yard butterfly along with a second-place finish in the 400 freestyle relay and a third-place finish in the 200 medley relay.

Lenz finished with a program-record score on the three-meter springboard, he also came away with wins in the men's platform and one-meter dives. Lenz finished the meet in second place with a score of 396.98, topping his previous best of 390.80.

Dixon is a native of Richmond, Virginia, and is in his fourth season with the Mountaineers. A season ago, Dixon



PHOTO BY COLIN HEILMAN

A WVU swimmer comes up for air during a breaststroke race against George Washington last season.

was an NCAA Championship qualifier and was also selected to represent WVU at the USA swimming's 2019

Toyota U.S. Open.

Dixon also finished the 2019-20 season with a bronze in the 200 butterfly at the Big

12 Championships. Dixon holds the school record for the 200 fly, and won the award for Big 12 Swimmer of the

Week twice a season ago.

Lenz was also a qualifier in last season's NCAA Championships when he qualified for

the NCAA Zone Dive Championship. Lenz also won the Big 12 Diver of the Week nomination a year ago.

The Mountaineers suffered a tough loss against Pitt in their first meet of 2021. However, the clear cut performances by Dixon and Lenz provide a boost for West Virginia.

WVU head coach Vic Riggs saw positives for his team so early in the season following the performance against Pittsburgh.

"It also was a very solid day for the men's team," Riggs said. "We ran into a very good Pitt team, and they swam really well. With that said, our team also swam very well. Today was a good start to our season, and we know where we are and what we need to do to get better."

"We had several lifetime-best times from both teams today, which makes for a great start to our season."

Next up, the team will host Notre Dame on Jan. 29 and 30. Following that meet, they will have almost a month off before the Big 12 Championships start on Feb. 24.



# Deans filling critical role for Mountaineers

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY  
SPORTS EDITOR

This West Virginia women's basketball team has had a clear leader from the beginning of the season in red-shirt senior guard Kysre Gondrezick. However, another player has made her name heard time and again and is emerging as a star for the Mountaineers.

Sophomore guard Kirsten "KK" Deans, from Greensboro, North Carolina, started her career at WVU productively during the 2019-20 season. In 29 games with one start, Deans averaged five points, two assists and three rebounds per game.

Deans shot the ball well from the field with a 33% field goal percentage, yet, her three-point shooting was on the low side at 27%.

In year two, Deans has made a tremendous leap in nearly every statistical category. Through 12 games, Deans averages 32 minutes per game while scoring 12 points, snagging three rebounds and dishing out three assists per game.

West Virginia head coach Mike Carey said that Deans brings the right mindset to the basketball court.

"She's the energy," Carey said. "She plays with a lot of heart and she's tough too. She'll run through a wall."

Deans combines with Gondrezick and also Madisen Smith to make a very provoking backcourt for the Moun-



PHOTO BY WVU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

West Virginia guard Kirsten "KK" Deans (3) walks off the floor following West Virginia's 67-59 victory against Oklahoma State on Jan. 16.

tainers. The three guards combine to score on average 43 points per game for West Virginia.

"She gives us that meanness and plays extremely hard," Carey said of Deans' role. "Also, she's scoring the basketball, which really helps us.

She's a complete player, and she has really done a great job for us so far."

The most noteworthy improvement for Deans has been her three-point shooting. Deans is currently 17-for-37 (46%) from behind the arc in 12 appearances, which is

a significant jump from her freshman campaign. Deans' three-point percentage places her second on the team.

Overall, the Mountaineers rank second in the Big 12 with a 38% average from three-point range.

Deans has been at the fore-

front of a team that has had an exceptional start to the season and currently sits in fourth place in the Big 12. Carey sees improvement in the team chemistry and acknowledged the impact of younger players stepping up.

"I think our chemistry this

year is a lot better than it was last year, and I think our work ethic is a lot better than what it was last year," Carey said. "I think a lot of our younger players have gotten a lot better from last year as well."

## WVU gymnastics begins 2021 season against Oklahoma

BY KATIE WOLFOPE  
SPORTS WRITER

The West Virginia gymnastics team kicks off the 2021 season on Friday with a meeting against the 2019 National Champion and reigning Big 12 Conference champion, No. 2 Oklahoma.

Last season, the Mountaineers finished with 11 wins and ranked nationally twice in the Road to Nationals Rankings. The floor lineup finished 2020 ranked No. 24 nationally. WVU registered four top-50 scores, including a season-high 196.425 wins over Pitt and Rutgers on March 1.

Sophomore Abbie Pierson was ranked inside the top 10 on vault, tying for No. 9 overall, with a qualifying score of 9.84 and had 264.175 total points on the year. Classmate

Kianna Yancey, along with Pierson, paced WVU with 10 podium finishes each, while junior Kendra Combs received eight podium finishes.

WVU tallied 49.225 on balance beam, the fourth-best score in program history last season. The Mountaineers lost some key athletes on the team due to graduation, but hopes that the newly welcomed freshmen, Chloe Asper, Ellen Collins, Gillian Fletcher, Agatha Handono, Kiana Lewis and Nicole Norris, can be valuable additions to the team.

Oklahoma (2-0) opened the season with a win against Arizona State and recently defeated then-No. 3 Utah. Senior Anastasia Webb is No. 4 nationally in the all-around (39.563), No. 3 on the beam (9.925), No. 11 on vault (9.888) and No. 20 on

floor (9.888). Classmate Carly Woodard is No. 6 on beam (9.900).

Three Sooner freshmen are also ranked, Audrey Lynn at No. 12 on vault (9.875), Katherine LeVasseur at No. 11 on bars (9.900) and Audrey Davis at No. 15 on bars (9.887).

Junior Emma LaPinta is ranked in the top 10 on floor at No. 10 with a 9.900 average. Sophomore Jenna Dunn rounds out the ranked Sooners at No. 17 on beam (9.875).

West Virginia was set to host the Big 12 Gymnastics Championship last year, but the season was interrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. WVU will host the championship on March 20 at the WVU Coliseum in Morgantown.

The matchup is set to begin at 7 p.m. and will be broadcast live through Big 12 Now on ESPN+.



Junior Rachel Hornung celebrates a completed bars routine during a meet last season.

FILE PHOTO

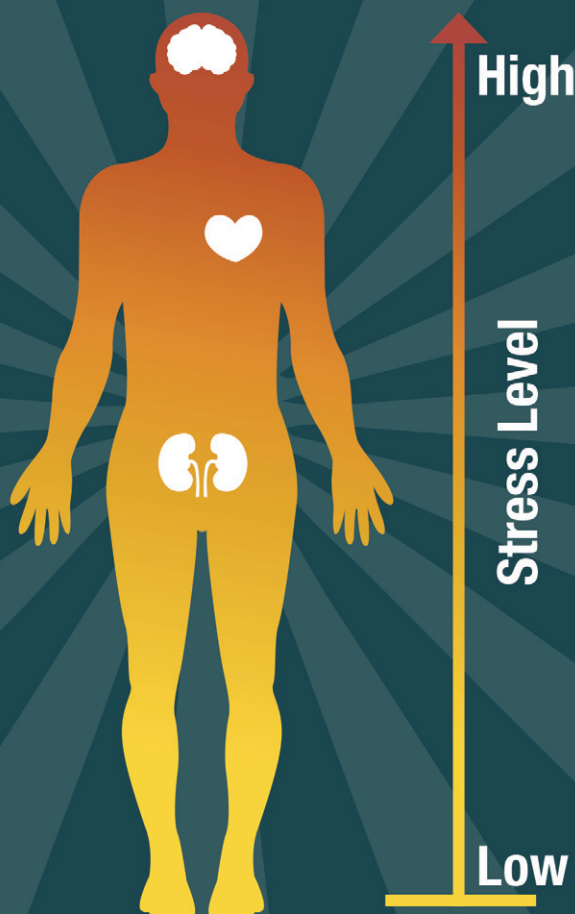


# Stress Building Up?

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