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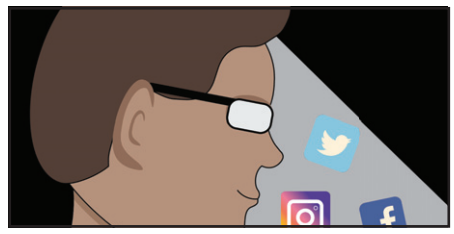

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Film Club president brings back Campus Movie Fest

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West Virginia throws combined no-hitter against Kent State

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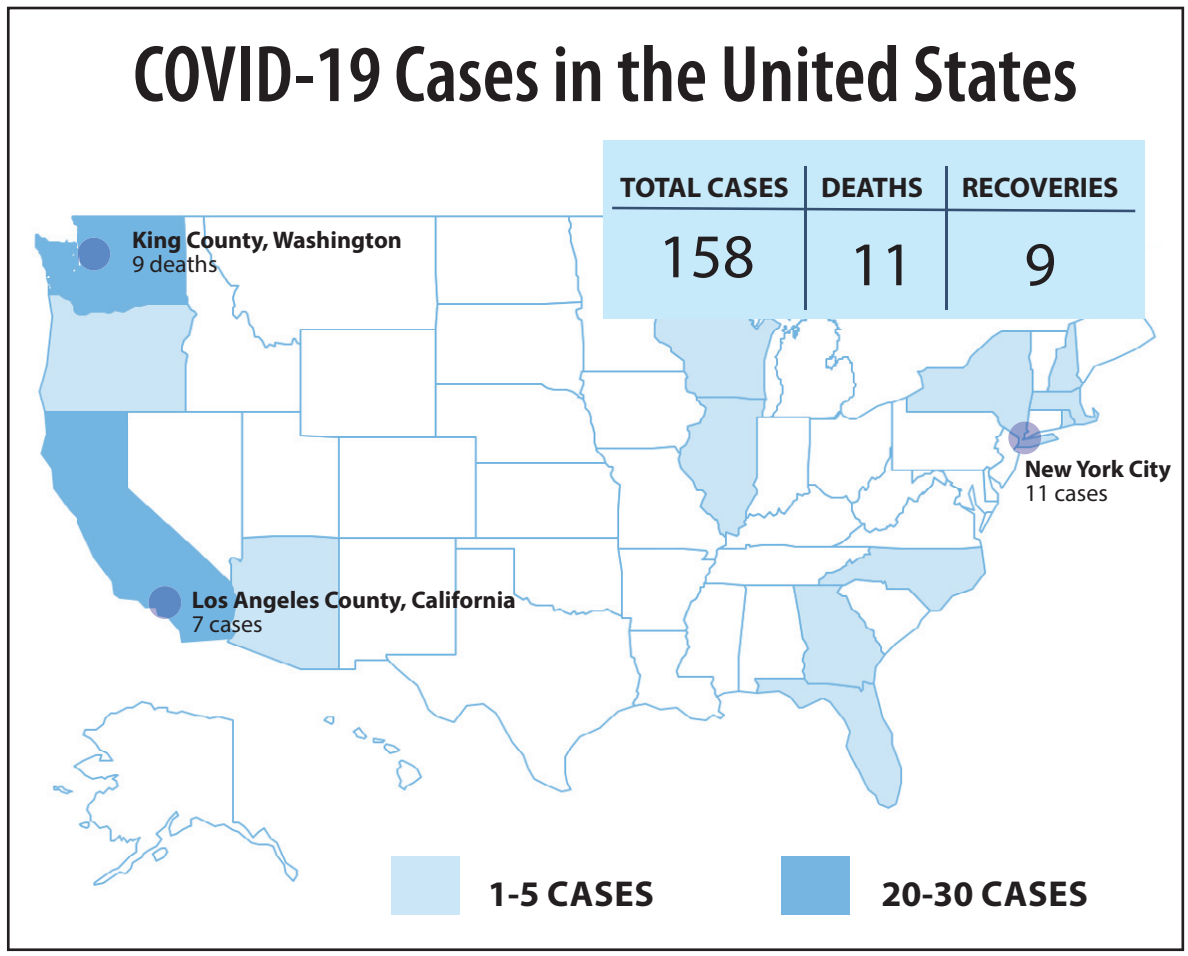
WVU's Independent Student Newspaper | THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020 | www.thedaonline.com

Spring break trips canceled, WVU continues to monitor coronavirus

BY GABRIELLA BROWN AND HAILEY SEAMON
NEWS EDITOR AND CORRESPONDENT



INFOGRAPHIC BY AVERY LYONS

As students begin packing their bags for spring break travel, the University is preparing to combat any cases of coronavirus that may hit West Virginia.

"Everybody can get infected. Kids, young adults [and] elderly," said Ivan Martinez, associate professor in the Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Cell Biology at WVU.

WVU has already canceled 13 faculty-led spring break trips and two summer study abroad trips. However, students going abroad independently are still at risk of contracting the disease. Three students studying abroad this semester in Italy have also made the decision to return home.

WVU had originally planned trips to Honduras, the United Kingdom, Italy, Germany, Czechia and other areas. Any domestic trips have not been impacted.

Henry Oliver, WVU director of global advancement, said as access to public places and infrastructure has become a growing challenge. He said the University is concerned it would not be able to deliver the experiences it wants to for its students.

"If you look at examples like the Louvre is closed," Oliver said.

He said entering certain countries like Italy are also becoming increasingly difficult to enter, with multiple U.S. airlines restricting travel.

Oliver said with spring break travel less than two weeks away, the University is working to ensure no students will be financially liable for the situation.

He said any students who had registered for the program will be fully-refunded as the University works to cancel flights and other travel bookings.

John Bolt, WVU communications senior executive director, said the financial impact this will have on the University is still being calculated.

Martinez said coronavirus is transmitted by person-to-person contact. Through sneezing and coughing, microscopic pieces of the virus can be left around that can infect other people.

Martinez said transmission of the disease often occurs when someone rubs their eyes or touches food and puts it in their mouth.

Coming into contact with the virus does not mean someone will immediately feel symptoms of the virus. While this may sound like a good thing, Martinez said it is actually what makes the virus so dangerous.

"The problem with that is exactly that," Martinez said. "If you are not feeling sick, you still go to work, you still go to school. You don't realize that you are actually carrying the disease and infecting other people."

Oliver said this was one of the main reasons the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention urged universities to cancel spring break trips.

He said one of the biggest dangers the virus poses to travelers is the length of spring break is shorter than the time needed to show symptoms. If any students that return to campus have contracted the disease, they will not know until weeks after coming back.

Until a few days ago, the CDC only tested patients from China and Italy for coronavirus. Now, anyone suspected to carry the virus in the United States can be tested.

"That means that we're probably going to see, in the next couple of days, an increased number of people [testing] positive for the virus," Martinez said. "It's not that suddenly the virus is spreading around. It's mostly because the virus [has] probably already spread."

As of right now, there is no known cure for the virus. Martinez said there are several companies and universities working to develop a vaccine.

"We do not know how this virus is going to behave because it's the first time it's in humans," Martinez said. "Hopefully, we will potentially have a vaccine in a year from now."

See **coronavirus** page 4

Policy change adds prior learning credit

STAFF REPORT

Multiple changes to the WVU Academic Policy have been made, including changes to final exam policies and suspension policies, that will go into effect for the 2020-2021 school year.

Final Exam Policy

In order to provide an opportunity for faculty to give low-stakes assessments in their courses, changes have been made to the final exam policy.

These changes will allow faculty to give exams or quizzes that cover less than 20 percent of the course content in the week prior to the final examination. These exams must be given with the intention to provide students with feedback prior to taking their last exams.

According to the policy change, this change is also intended to benefit students by giving them the extra opportunity to increase their chance of success in the course.

Academic Probation and Suspension Policy

Changes to the probation and suspension policy were made. Rather than students being suspended in the spring due to not meeting GPA requirements, the suspension process will occur twice a year at the end of each fall and spring semester.

At the end of the third term if a student has maintained a GPA less than a 2.00, they will be suspended. According to the policy, this means the earliest a student can be suspended is at the end of their third full term.

This change is intended to give students who struggle early on in their academic career to improve their grades.

Credit for Prior Learning

This change will give degree programs the ability to give credit for experiential learning programs such as professional certifications or training.

According to the policy change, students interested in earning this type of credit must speak with their academic advisor to see if their outside program is eligible for this credit.

WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

Thursday 3/4

PARTLY CLOUDY

HIGH 55° - LOW 37°

Friday 3/5

RAIN AND SNOW SHOWERS

HIGH 40° - LOW 28°

Saturday 3/6

PARTLY CLOUDY

HIGH 44° - LOW 28°

CRIME REPORT

• POLICE LINE • DO NOT CROSS • POLICE LINE • DO NOT CROSS • POLICE LINE • DO NOT CROSS • POLICE LINE

March 2
11:09 P.M. | Closed
Summit Hall
Drug incident.

March 2
9:56 P.M. | Closed
Health Science Center
Unsecure building.

March 2
7:08 P.M. | Citation
Patteson Drive
Traffic stop.

March 2
3:31 P.M. | Closed
College Park
Fire alarm.

March 2
6:49 P.M. | Closed
University Avenue
Traffic stop.

March 2
10:04 A.M. | Closed
Mineral Resources Building
Fire alarm.

March 2
8:52 P.M. | Closed
Health Sciences Center
Panic alarm.

March 2
3:04 P.M. | Closed
IHOP
Assist Police.

March 1
9:16 P.M. | Unfounded
Summit Hall
Drug incident.

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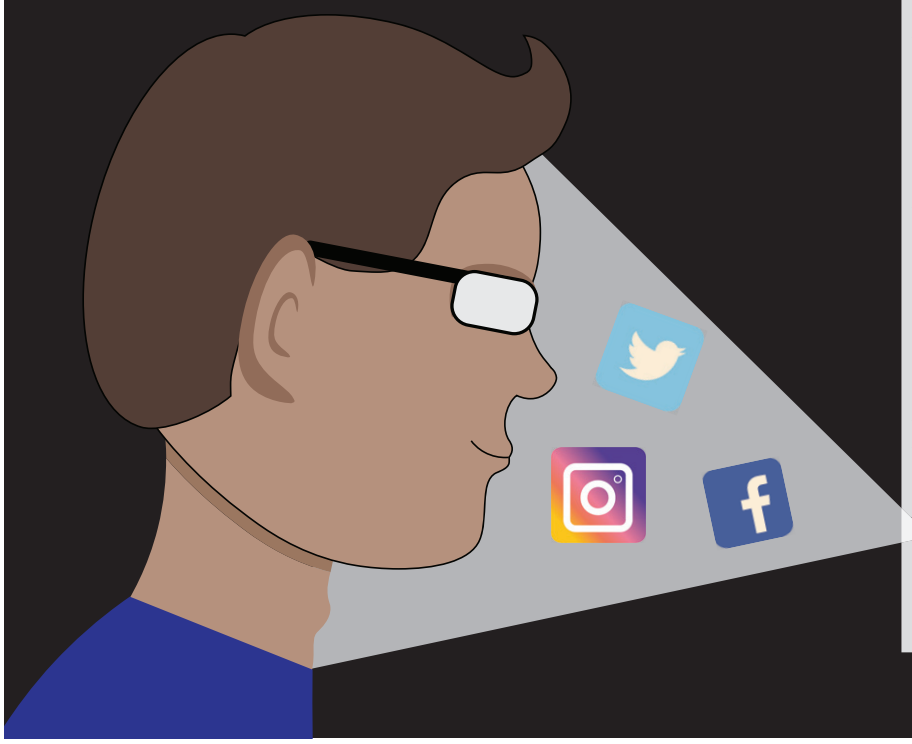
NEWS

Researcher finds benefits to social media



BY HALEH AMANIEH
CORRESPONDENT

WVU research shows that social media might have mental health benefits.

Jeffrey Hughes, a WVU graduate student, studied the relationship between social media and mental health. He found that while social media can have negative impacts on certain people, there are situations in which social media may actually have benefits.

In his research, Hughes looked at loneliness, depression and anxiety in teenagers and correlated those variables with social media use.

"Lonely male adolescents actually benefited from being on social media," Hughes said. "Those who were addicted had less depression, less anxiety and had higher self-esteem."

He said that this finding did not hold for females, and it wasn't because they use different apps. Each social media app can have a negative or positive impacts on mental health, depending on how it is used.

Hughes said females are more likely to use social media to maintain relationships and post photos, while males are more likely to use it for more information or activity-based uses, such as looking at photos of their hobbies or keeping up with sports.

"I think people need to re-evaluate how they use social media," Hughes said. "The number one thing that anyone can do to lessen the negative effects of social media is to stop caring so much about validation from strangers."

He said that social media doesn't necessarily have the power to make individuals less lonely, but it could help with depression in other ways.

Hughes said using social media to look at hobbies, funny pictures or information, social media addiction can actually curb the relationship between loneliness and depression. He said there is more to the relationship between social media and mental health than just how much it is used.

Alyssa Fraser, a WVU forensic and investigative science student, said she actually does see many benefits to using social media. She said by avoiding pages or people who spread negative messages, she is able to avoid the extra stress that may come with viewing their content.

"I don't think it affects my mental health necessarily unless I'm watching really cute cat or dog videos because then it makes me happier," Fraser said.

On the other hand, other students said they have felt the negative impacts social media can have on their lives.

Riley Darragh, a sociology and anthropology student, said while he doesn't believe those he follows on social media intend to harm other's mental health, it often ends up that way.

"For me, a lot of the time it'll be over the summer when I'm working for months straight and they're all in Europe," Darragh said.

Brianna DeLarge, a WVU psychology student, said she avoids Facebook at all costs.

"I think if I deleted all of the workout pages I follow, I'd be happier because I wouldn't be seeing the things I'm not doing," DeLarge said.

Students overcome hurdles to implement state banks

BY HALEH AMANIEH
CORRESPONDENT

Despite the obstacles that come with convincing lawmakers to support research on state banks in West Virginia, a group of WVU graduate students continue to persevere.

"We're just not letting the negativity get to us," said Shelby Johnson, a WVU graduate student and team member. "We're still emailing and calling lawmakers."

The students submitted a State Bank Study Resolution, which is a request for funding to study the potential impact of implementing state banks in West Virginia. The students are requesting up to $50,000 to conduct their research over the summer.

Johnson said Sen. Mike Romano, D-Harrison, is sponsoring the resolution in the state Senate.

"We spoke with House members and senators about our resolution," Johnson said. "He is really excited about it and trying to get it passed."

The students have until March 7, the end of the legislative session, to get their resolution passed. Johnson said to get the resolution passed in this timeframe, they need to email and call lawmakers to get more support.

This is the students' first time advocating for an issue in the legislature, which delayed the introduction of the resolution to the House and Senate.

"I don't think it's being accepted very widely there, unfortunately," Johnson said.

Johnson said the resolution is generally perceived as a progressive and partisan issue. The students were only able to get support from Democratic legislators.

Despite the minimal acceptance of the resolution across Senate and House members, the students are still working on convincing lawmakers that the study is a good idea.

If the resolution does not pass this legislative session, the students can still introduce the resolution to an interim committee. The students plan on inviting West Virginia lawmakers to a roundtable discussion in April.

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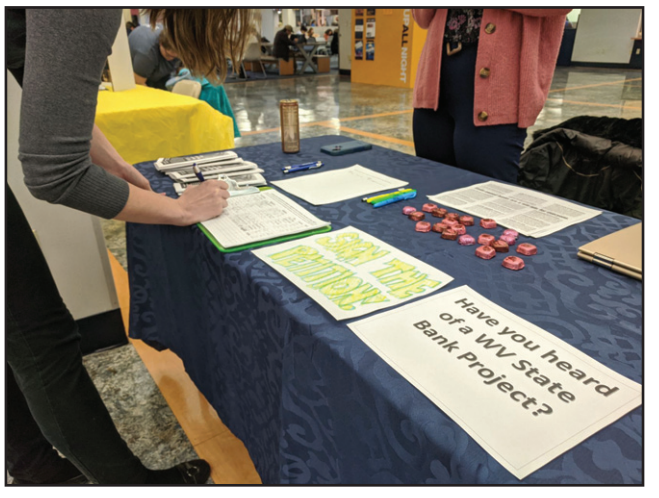

PHOTO BY HALEH AMENEH

Students could stop by and learn more about the benefits of state banks.

The students are also advocating for changes to medical marijuana laws that will allow access to flower and home-grown cannabis. Johnson said their goal is to convince lawmakers to expand access of medical cannabis to patients throughout the state.

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THE DA

Coronavirus

Continued from page 1

While this strain of the virus has not been seen before, it is not the first time coronavirus has been a problem. In the past, he said deadlier outbreaks of the virus have occurred.

"SARS was a different type of coronavirus that came out from China in 2003. That one was actually more deadly than the one we have now," Martinez said. "And MERS; it's another one that started in Saudi Arabia that was even more deadly."

Martinez believes that the likelihood of the virus infecting Morgantown is still low. However, hospitals and the University are still working to ensure students and community members can stay healthy.

"One way or another, we were able to contain it," Martinez said.

Oliver said WVU will continue to monitor upcoming summer abroad programs.

In a panel discussion with students on Tuesday, WVU President E. Gordon Gee said the University is well prepared if the coronavirus spreads to WVU.

PHOTO VIA WVU

Ivan Martinez.

"We want to be very well prepared, but we also don't want to panic," Gee said.

Gee said J. W. Ruby Memorial Hospital has been an asset in ensuring the University is prepared if the coronavirus makes its way into West Virginia.

Clay Marsh, vice president and executive dean for health sciences, said no cases have been reported in West Virginia. He said the best practices are avoiding touching your face, washing hands frequently, and, if students are feeling ill, they should stay home.

Gee said the University is working to adjust its attendance policy to ensure the coronavirus as well as other illnesses are not spread between students.

Bill to create Bible study elective in public schools

STAFF REPORT

A West Virginia bill that allows elective Bible study courses in public schools passed through the Senate on Thursday.

Since the state House of Delegates already passed it, the bill has been sent to the desk of Gov. Jim Justice.

"As a religious person, on one hand I would want a public space to be equal for all," said Rabbi Zalman Gurevitz of the WVU Rohr Chabad Jewish Center. "I can't speak for other religions, but I think this law is a back around way of bringing Christian worship into school."

According to House Bill 4780, under the bill county boards of education can offer three different courses to grades nine or above. These include an elective social studies course on the Hebrew Scriptures and the Old Testament of the Bible, an elective social studies course on the New Testament of the Bible or an elective social studies course on the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament of the Bible. The bill does not require counties to offer such classes.

According to the bill, an intended purpose of the bill is to "teach students knowledge of biblical content, characters, poetry and narratives that are prerequisites to understanding the development of American society and culture, including literature, art, music, mores, oratory and public policy."

The bill also states that "a course under this section may not endorse, favor, promote, disfavor, or show hostility toward, any particular religion or nonreligious faith or religious perspective."

Sen. Mike Woelfel, D-Cabell, voted for the bill, but said it was unconstitutional.

"I'm going to vote for this bill. I certainly think our students could benefit from this, but you got a bill here that's going to be declared unconstitutional," Woelfel said, according to The Register-Herald. "By making it restrictive and denying the amendment, [to include any sacred text or comparative religion], I bet you a holy rosary this will be declared unconstitutional."

THE DA

Did you know the DA is editorially independent from the University?

HIGH STREET COMMONS

BEL-CROSS HIGH STREET COMMONS: AN ADA ACCEPTABLE APARTMENT IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN MORGANTOWN

The newly built and eagerly awaited High Street Commons apartments are finally taking shape. Nestled on the corner of Forest Avenue, this new three-story building is a quick walk from downtown campus. This apartment building is perfect for campus convenience, but it is also perfect for anyone interested in getting the Downtown Morgantown experience. Living here would surround you with the best local eats and nightlife options that Morgantown has to offer.

One thing you might not realize about this new apartment building is its commitment to accessibility. High Street Commons boasts some great new accessible features, as well as an ADA accessible unit. The building includes handicap accessible parking as well as ramps at the entrance of the building. Additionally, there is elevator access to all floors. The building is also quite secure and easy to enter, secured by a key code and video surveillance.

Unit 201 of 461 High Street Commons is its own ADA accessible apartment. It has wider doors and safety railings in the bathroom. In the kitchen, you can find appliances in the front for easy access. Uniquely, this apartment is also equipped with a washer and dryer that is combined into one unit which opens at the front. Slanted cabinet bases for the sink and microwave have also been installed for ease of use. Basically if you can dream it, property developer, SunCap Property Group has installed it.

Each of the units in this building are 2 bedroom 2 bath, and start at $1,750 per month plus utilities.

To check out this apartment and others in this building, head over to www.highstcommons.com. There, you can find all of the details for this brand new, fully loaded apartment building.

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Film Club president brings back Campus Movie Fest

BY COLE MCCLANAHAN AND KAELI RICOTTILLI
CULTURE EDITOR AND CORRESPONDENT

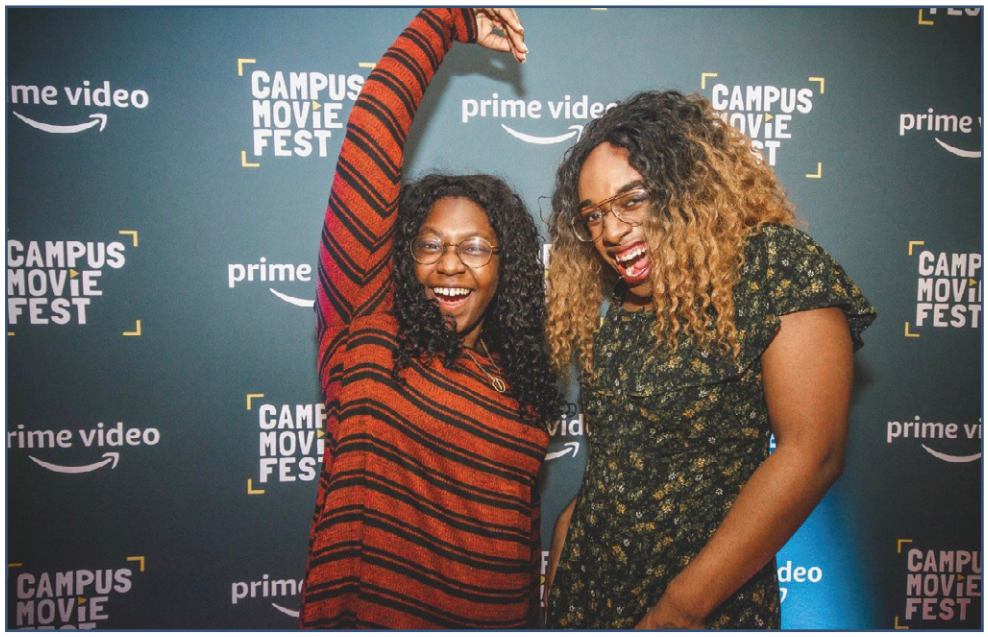


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JEFF BOGGESS

Two people at the 2018 WVU Campus Movie Fest premiere.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JEFF BOGGESS

The 2020 Campus Movie Fest premiere will be held in the Mountainlair ballrooms Thursday night.

After WVU didn't renew its contract with Campus Movie Fest, Jeff Boggess stepped in to ensure the event would go on.

"I always advocate this event," Boggess, a junior advertising student, said. "It's such a great opportunity."

Boggess had participated in and attended CMF in Fall 2017 and 2018, and found out that the event's contract was not renewed for 2019 through his status as WVU Film Club president.

CMF had come to WVU for six straight years, always during the fall semester, and Boggess said it was done through a contract with WVUp All Night. But when the WVUp All Night department became part of WVU Arts and Entertainment in January 2019, the department did not see renewing the contract as a priority.

It was the third campus event canceled by WVU Arts and Entertainment since taking over WVUp All Night's programs, joining "Mountaineer Idol" and "Dancing with our Mountaineer Stars."

Boggess said CMF had not heard from the University about a 2019 event, and the organization wanted to return to WVU because it always had a positive experience on campus.

"The University was not going to reach out to CMF in any capacity really, so what I did was reach out to them," Boggess said.

He worked to secure funding for the event to "incentivize CMF to come back to WVU," and did so by emailing WVU department heads and WVU President E. Gordon Gee, but did not have much luck.

Finally, the Reed College of Media agreed to help and was then joined by Arts and Entertainment to fund the event.

Boggess said he wanted to make sure CMF continued to come to WVU because it is one of the best opportunities upcoming filmmakers can have.

For the past week, WVU students have been putting together short films for the festival.

On Thursday, 16 of those films will be screened at the campus premiere, and four of them will then go on to Hollywood.

With CMF, an international short film competition for college students, participants have a week to put together a film shorter than five minutes long, and all necessary equipment is provided by CMF for free.

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY JEFF BOGGESS

Jeff Boggess (middle) posing atop two people's shoulders.

After they are submitted, the films are presented to a panel of judges who choose the 16 best films to show at the campus premiere.

Out of the 16 shown at the premiere, the top four will be shown at CMF Terminus, which was previously held in Atlanta, but will take place in Hollywood this summer.

"The premiere in 2018 is one of my best memories from college in general," Boggess said. "It's so encouraging. The energy is electric because you go there, and all of your peers have made things that are just awesome."

Besides international exposure, participants have a chance at winning cash prizes and having their film screened at the Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, by participating in categories such as the "Hope in Social Justice" category or the newer "Women in Film" category with The Walt Disney Company.

Films in the "Hope in Social Justice" category can touch on topics ranging from homelessness to climate change. Finalists in this category have their films screened in Cannes.

The "Women in Film" category is newer to the competition and includes films that show that the future of film is diverse. This can mean anything from a strong female lead to a female director.

Winners in this category receive exclusive networking opportunities and a stipend to travel to Terminus.

Premiere attendees who did not submit films can still win big as CMF will be giving out prizes throughout the night. There is also a "best dressed" category for everyone.

The WVU premiere will be held Thursday night in the Mountainlair ballrooms, with the doors opening at 7 p.m. and the event starting at 7:30 p.m.

Steps to avoid hangovers as St. Patrick's Day nears

BY ZACH DELUCA
CORRESPONDENT

Many WVU students are looking forward to the approaching St. Patrick's Day weekend and spring break to celebrate their survival of midterms.

However, waking up with a splitting headache and nauseating stomach pain is not on anyone's agenda, so how do the Mountaineers combat the symptoms and keep the party going?

"I've got this down to a science," said Tyler Lalka, a sophomore business student. "I get up, go to McDonald's, get two sausage and egg McMuffins, a large cup of ice water and go to a store and get Gatorade."

Lalka said his hangovers typically only last an hour or two after finishing his breakfast of champions.

Christiane Messerli, a sophomore biochemistry student, agrees with the greasy food option.

Messerli said "going to Chipotle and eating everything on the menu" is her go-to solution for a nasty hangover.

Messerli also said the closest thing to a hangover remedy is eating and staying hydrated.

Gatorade was another popular choice among students, but for Connor Swann, a senior finance student, Gatorade is not always the key to curing a hangover.

"If it's a bad enough one, Gatorade isn't going to help a whole lot," he said.

It seems the best overall remedy for a hangover is prevention.

"During a period of drinking, I'll just be mindful of how many drinks I have," said Ivan Vore, a sophomore biochemistry student. "I also drink [loads] of water."

In terms of what the worst hangover remedy was, the unanimous answer from WVU students was eating nothing at all.

"Definitely do not do that," Swann said. "I made that mistake once; definitely won't do that again."

Robert Swift, a researcher at the Providence Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Rhode Island and a popular source of hangover research since 1998, said in an article published in the Port City Daily that getting carbohydrates in your system to be important when alcohol potentially lowers blood sugar levels.

With St. Patrick's Day and all the glorious parties lingering on the minds of many, it is important to remember to stay hydrated and use the hangover excuse to load up on yummy carbs.

OPINION

Staff Contributions
danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu

WV's Brain Drain: It's unsustainable

SUBMITTED BY DAVID CORAM
WVU MASTER OF ACCOUNTANCY STUDENT

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY DAVID CORAM

David Coram

It's 2020, and the census is upon us. This is a time where we get to look at the results and see what has happened in the last decade with regard to population. While the country as a whole is certain to see a population increase, I am more concerned as to what is going on within the borders of our state. Make no mistake, it has been far short of satisfactory. Since 1950, West Virginia has lost population. That is not the case with just about every other U.S. state, give or take. It is estimated that this year's census will indicate a population of under 1.8 million for us. In 1950, we had over 2 million. The decline has to stop and it has to stop right now.

Let's look at this objectively. West Virginia can't attract new residents, and we need to truly investigate why that is. Year after year, out-of-state students pick up a degree at our beloved institution… then they move back home or elsewhere. They don't become West Virginia residents after they achieve that degree. I truly can't blame them if they don't see a stable future for themselves here. Where are the career opportunities for them? Some of my best friends are from out-of-state and I listen to their intended paths. It makes a ton of sense as to why they can't stay here. You come to college to learn but you also come to college to make yourself more competitive in the job market. The problem stems from the fact that our job market can't compete with that of other states and metropolitan areas. This is largely due to the fact that we don't have a major metropolitan area. We also don't have a major airport and our largest city, Charleston, has dipped below 50,000 residents. West Virginia, overall, has a bad job market for college graduates. People have some ideas on how to fix that, but the fact of the matter is that it will only turn upward by making fundamental changes.

Let's look at some of the state's top employers, Walmart being one of them. While I am not being critical of a career at Walmart, it is a well-known fact that many jobs at most Walmarts do not require a college degree. Is somebody going to spend a large sum of money to obtain a degree from WVU and then choose to work somewhere that doesn't require a degree just so they can stay in the state? To say that that's likely would be an outlandish assertion. Another one of the state's largest employers, Mylan Pharmaceuticals, has a very uncertain future in West Virginia due to an upcoming merger with Pfizer's generic pharmaceutical division known as Upjohn. While nothing is set in stone yet with regard to the new company's Morgantown presence, people of this community have become worried as Mylan is a prominent employer here. Depending on this outcome, it could result in more people and dollars leaving our state.

We need more employers who our college graduates can work for. We need to do a better job of making West Virginia accommodating to multinational employers in industries such as manufacturing and technology. While extraction industries such as natural gas are helping to employ more people and increasing severance tax revenues for the state, those industries alone will not fix all of West Virginia's problems. WVU graduates should have more career opportunities within the state of West Virginia than they do at the current moment. In-state students are forced to leave home to start a career and out-of-state students can't find a job that allows them to stay here after graduation. It's time for our country roads to start taking our people back home.

Before West Virginia is suitable for these industries, it will need to undergo many changes. Broadband access is vital to economic growth. If we want to be on a level playing field with other states and major metropolitan areas, our broadband complications must be addressed immediately. Conducting business in the 21st century requires high-speed internet. Aside from internet, we as a state lack a competitive advantage in many other aspects. Numerous studies show the overall business climate of West Virginia being close to last year after year. Business climate consists of a wide array of factors from taxes to infrastructure to legal issues. From whatever lens you look at it from, major critiques must take place.

I, for one, look forward to continuing my life in this state. I love West Virginia. I love its culture, I love its landscape, but I love its people most of all. These people are genuine, down to earth folk. They deserve much better. They deserve growth and a prosperous economy. They deserve opportunities within the state and shouldn't have to move away to find work. People from Wyoming County shouldn't have to travel to Morgantown to drive Uber on the weekend to make a living (yes that happens). Changes must take place in order to get West Virginia to the 21st century. We have plenty of land for development and a population that is ready and willing to work. It is imperative that our politicians do whatever is necessary to help revive our economy. The current trends are unsustainable.

Protecting Vulnerable Road Users

SUBMITTED BY CHRISTIAAN ABILDSO
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN THE SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND FORMER MORGANTOWN PEDESTRIAN BOARD CHAIR

PHOTO VIA WVU

Christiaan Abildso

Over the last few years I've watched as multiple people walking or biking have been mamed or killed by people driving motor vehicles. Our dear friends Charlie Shaffer, Divanté Coles, and Robin Ames have been hit while riding; WVU students Leah Berhanu and Sara Queen have been hit walking to or from class - lives altered or ended. Their families have been forever scarred. I've attended many meetings where a lot is said in support of bicyclist and pedestrian safety, but watched as roads are rebuilt to encourage speed over safety. Words are not enough.

Ten years ago, a dedicated group of volunteers on the Morgantown Pedestrian Safety Board proposed a comprehensive plan to improve our pedestrian infrastructure. Our fellow dedicated volunteers on the Bicycle Board did the same. In the Pedestrian Safety Plan we proposed a $1 per linear foot fee on every property's road frontage in the City. For most residents, this would amount to $6-$8 per month, but yield $1 million per year. By now, we could have $10 million to spend on pedestrian safety improvements. Sadly, in the face of resistance from a few landlords, City Council at the time did not pursue the fee. Dozens have been hurt or killed since then. Could it have helped? Actions matter.

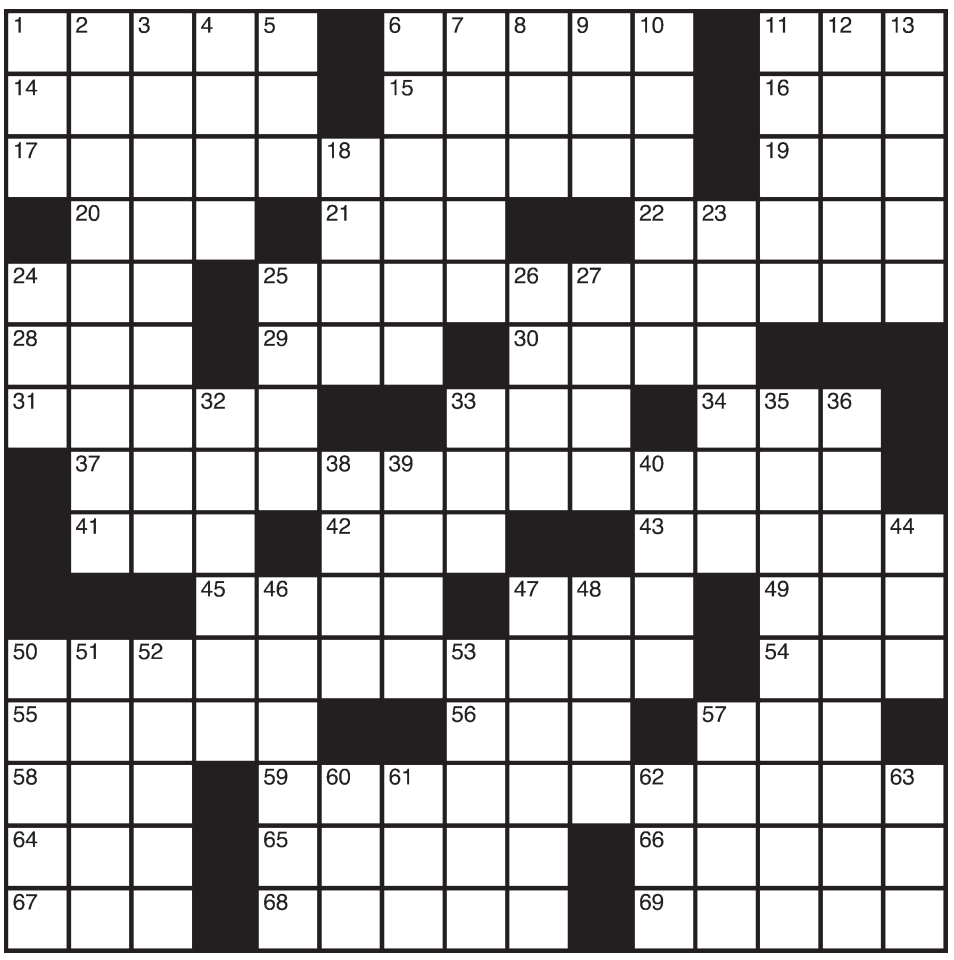
Regardless of resistance, our local and state leaders must take action to benefit the health, safety and welfare of the public. We now have numerous comprehensive, expert-driven plans and concepts for improving safety for our most vulnerable road users —pedestrians, bicyclists and many other users including highway workers, people using wheelchairs, motorcycles, mopeds and more. We also have a statewide Complete Streets policy that encourages reconstructing roads for all types of users of all ages and abilities. However, our main thoroughfares maintained by the state remain unaltered and dangerous by design. Status quo is putting vulnerable road users in harm's way. Words are not enough. Actions matter.

Not meeting the state policy in the engineering our roads, we turn to enforcement. However, some of our state laws have ineffective penalties —a $100 fine for holding and using a cell phone while driving, for example. And many don't adequately address the behavior changes that are necessary to keep our communities safe. The sum total is that there are often little to no consequences when drivers of automobiles operate in a hazardous way, leaving no real incentive to change. Texting, speeding, making illegal turns and generally being unpredictable as an automobile driver are behaviors that are destroying people's lives. Actions matter.

A Vulnerable Road User (VRU) law could protect. VRU laws provide important legal protection to pedestrians, bicyclists and others that are more likely to be hurt or killed in a crash with a vehicle. VRU laws operate on the principal of general deterrence —increasing penalties for careless or distracted driving behaviors that lead to the serious injury or death of certain road users in the hope that people will be deterred from driving carelessly. These laws are also easier to enforce, as they reduce the burden on the prosecution from proving "reckless" operation to only showing "careless" or "distracted" vehicle operation.

Why does this matter? I commute nearly every day on foot or on my bike. To you, I'm the guy in the orange jacket. But, to others I'm dad, husband, son, brother, coach, coworker or friend. To you, reader, I ask: is that text or call, those 10 seconds you'll save by speeding, that hurried right turn on red, rushing to get through the yellow, is that worth risking MY life? You're protected by steel, plastic, seat belts, and airbags. I'm not. I'm vulnerable even when I operate my bike or cross the street legally.

We cannot afford another death or serious injury. We have to act now to protect vulnerable road users, build appropriate infrastructure and incentivize the public to drive with due care and caution under all circumstances. For Robin. For Divanté. For Leah. For Charlie, Sara and many others. Engineers, policy makers, friends, fellow community members —we can do better. It's a matter of life or death. Actions matter.



Across

1 Commerce pact to be replaced by USMCA when it's ratified
6 __ circus
11 Cook quickly
14 Fluffed-up dos
15 Apple music players
16 Actress Longoria
17 *Top brass
19 Outlaw
20 Iraq War concern: Abbr.
21 New beginning?
22 Spine-tingling
24 Farm female
25 *Response to wild applause
28 Almost on "E"
29 Biblical mount
30 Attend
31 "The Art of Loving" author Erich
33 Cubs' home
34 Fort Collins sch.
37 *Political metaphor about dealing with bureaucracy
41 Wild blue yonder
42 Unagi, e.g.
43 Beyond angry
45 Membership fees
47 "Help!" at sea
49 P-like letter
50 *Market-based pollution-control policy
54 "__ Explain Things to Me": 2014 Rebecca Solnit essay anthology
55 Yellow-and-white daisy
56 "Otoh, what will you pay?"
57 Long of "Empire"
58 A-lister
59 Classic "Psycho" segment where one might see the starts of the answers to starred clues
64 Canon SLR
65 Programmer
66 Certain Jamaican, religiously
67 Brief reaction to oversharing
68 Newspaper essays
69 Wild West movie

Down

1 "Don't think so"
2 Brief thing to say
3 Basic structure
4 Lincoln in-law
5 Shade of gray
6 Ones who dig hard rock?
7 Florida theme park
8 Play-__: kids' clay
9 Wedding promise
10 Agreement
11 Striped equine
12 To no __: useless
13 Group of judges
18 Weight on one's shoulders
23 Tesla Model X, for one
24 "The Hobbit" being
25 Sleeveless top, for short
26 "A Death in the Family" author
27 + or - particles
32 "Help!" at sea
33 UPS rival
35 Most ingratiatingly earnest
36 Get serious, gambler-style
38 Can't live without
39 Push to the limit
40 Sage
44 Seemingly forever
46 World Heritage Site org.
47 Civil War swords
48 Baking soda target
50 Tenth Commandment verb
51 Universal principle
52 One side in the "cola wars"
53 Crewed in a shell
57 College Football Playoff org.
60 Sock __
61 Lyrical tribute
62 "No seats" sign
63 Cup handle

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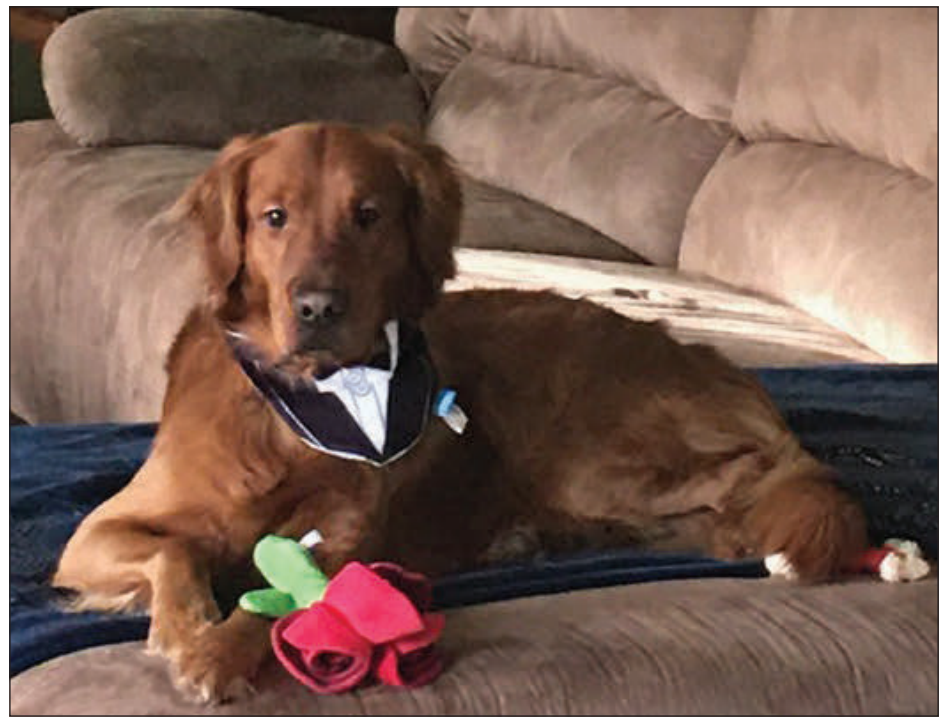

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY SHARI L. NAY

This is Kaiser. He is a 2-year-old Golden Retriever. He is very outgoing and quite the lady's man. Kaiser enjoys being outdoors, watching WVU sports and getting his "BarkBox" delivery each month.

Submit your favorite pet photo at danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu

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Flynn looking for effort, fight at Big 12 Championships

BY CODY NESPOR
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

PHOTO BY SETH SEEBAUGH

WVU wrestling coach Tim Flynn calls out to one of his wrestlers during the team's contest against Buffalo on Dec. 8.

PHOTO BY SETH SEEBAUGH

Junior Nick Kiussis attempts to position his opponent into a pin against Buffalo on Dec. 8.

With the regular season over, the West Virginia wrestling team has now turned its focus to the Big 12 Championships this weekend.

Head coach Tim Flynn said he is just looking for his team to be competitive over the weekend.

"I want to see effort, I want to see fight, and, ultimately, I want to see guys qualify for the NCAA Tournament," Flynn said. "We're at a level where we've got to have — really you always have to have — consistent effort and fight and then we can evaluate the technical part, if they provide that effort."

The Mountaineers finished the season with a 4-12 record in dual meets, 1-7 in Big 12 matches. Two Mountaineers are currently ranked in the NCAA coaches panel.

Noah Adams is ranked No. 2 in the 197-pound weight class and Nick Kiussis is ranked No. 30 in the 165-pound class. Flynn said the main goal for his wrestlers is to qualify for the NCAA Tournament.

"Noah is expected to go and no one else really by their seed is expected to go," Flynn said. "So we're trying to exceed expectations. We have to. We have to or we're going to have a lot of guys watching on TV and not going to the tournament."

Flynn said Adams has the best chance to make nationals base on his seeding, but he also said Kiussis has a chance to win the conference championship for the 165 class.

"Nick's just a pretty solid wrestler," Flynn said. "He's had success in the past, I think people know that he has some talent and he can do it, he just has to put it all together at the right time here at the end of the year. That weight class is wide open at the Big 12s, so we're hoping he can really show up this weekend and get a ticket to the NCAA Tournament."

Kiussis is one of three Big 12 wrestlers ranked in the 165 class. There are eight Big 12 wrestlers ranked in the 197 class, with Adams leading the way at No. 2.

As a conference, the Big 12 will be able to send 54 wrestlers to the NCAA Tournament, the second-most of any conference other than the Big 10.

"It's a really, really challenging conference," Flynn said. "Just a lot of good wrestlers. I think there's a lot of guys, and we have some of them, that aren't maybe one of those 54 qualified spots but they're plenty capable. You're talking about 60 to 70 wrestlers that have a chance of going to the NCAA Tournament but they're vying for a limited number of spots. We're excited to get there and perform."

Big 12 men's basketball: WVU picks up victory after three-game skid

BY MICHAEL GRIFFITH
CORRESPONDENT

PHOTO BY SETH SEEBAUGH

WVU guard Miles McBride is averaging 15 points per game over the team's last two games.

No. 1 Kansas: The Jayhawks continue to solidify themselves as the best team in the country. Bill Self's team extended their win streak to 14 games after a blowout win over Oklahoma State on Feb. 24, 83-58, followed by a close road win against in-state rival Kansas State, 62-58. Center Udoka Azubuike had 19 points and 16 rebounds against OK State, but played limited minutes due to a foot injury against K-State. Guard Devon Dotson picked up the slack with 25 points to lead his team to the win in Manhattan. The Jayhawks will close the regular season with a game at Texas Tech on Saturday.

No. 4 Baylor: After a record-setting win streak, Scott Drew's team has lost two of its last four games, with the most recent being a close road loss to TCU on Saturday, 75-72. Baylor avoided another loss after beating Texas Tech, 71-68, in overtime on Monday behind a strong team shooting performance. The Bears shot 41% from the three-point line while every player who touched the floor scored a point. Baylor continues its pursuit of a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament when it visits Morgantown to play WVU this weekend in the team's regular season finale.

Texas: After four straight losses, the Longhorns have turned around 180 degrees with a five-game win streak, moving them into a tie for third in the Big 12 Conference standings. Junior guard Matt Coleman III has scored in double-figures in three out of the last four games, including 21 points against Oklahoma Tuesday night on 60% shooting, highlighted by a game-winning shot from three that banked in with 0.4 seconds left on the clock. Shaka Smart continues to prove why he should be the head coach again next season. His team will look for its 20th win against Oklahoma State to finish the regular season.

Texas Tech: After fighting back into the top 25 rankings a few weeks ago, the Red Raiders have dropped their last three games, the most-recent being an overtime loss, 71-68, on the road against Baylor. Despite being 13-2 at home, head coach Chris Beard's team dropped a crucial game against Texas, 68-58, over the weekend in Lubbock. Texas Tech will defend its home-court to finish the season in search of a resume win over No. 1 Kansas on Saturday, as the Red Raiders fight for an NCAA Tournament berth.

West Virginia: Bob Huggins earned his 880th win as a head coach and the Mountaineers won their first Big 12 road game since Jan. 6 by defeating Iowa State, 77-71, on Tuesday night. Freshman Miles McBride and sophomore Derek Culver led the team with 17 points each as four players scored in double figures for WVU. Free throw shooting elevated the Mountaineers over the Cyclones, particularly in the second half. WVU shot 18-for-23 (78%) from the line as McBride, Taz Sherman and Oscar Tshiebwe combined to go 15-for-15. West Virginia earned its 20th win and will look to keep the momentum as they host No. 4 Baylor on Saturday at 1 p.m. to finish the regular season.

Big 12 Conference Standings

1. No. 1 Kansas Jayhawks (26-3, 15-1)
2. No. 4 Baylor Bears (26-3, 15-2)
3. Texas Longhorns (19-11, 9-8)
4. Texas Tech Red Raiders (18-12, 9-8)
5. Oklahoma Sooners (18-12, 8-9)
6. West Virginia Mountaineers (20-10, 8-9)
7. TCU Horned Frogs (16-13, 7-9)
8. Oklahoma State Cowboys (15-14, 5-11)
9. Iowa State Cyclones (12-18, 5-12)
10. Kansas State Wildcats (9-20, 2-14)

Entering March 4

West Virginia throws combined no-hitter against Kent State

BY JARED SERRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Of the 32 batters the West Virginia pitching staff faced on Wednesday night, none of them could come up with a hit.

Anchored by starting pitcher Tyler Strechay, who started the game by throwing five innings of perfect baseball, the Mountaineers no-hit the Kent State Golden Flashes en route to a 8-0 win.

Strechay, a freshman from Collegeville, Pennsylvania, did not allow a single baserunner during his outing.

"I was just trying to execute every pitch," Strechay said. "I know if I don't try to do too much, if I just go out there and throw strikes, my defense has my back."

West Virginia head coach Randy Mazey handed the ball over to relief pitcher Dillon Meadows for the sixth inning. Meadows, a senior, struck out two batters over two innings on the mound, keeping the no-hit bid intact.

Mazey then turned to freshman Skylar Gonzalez, who struck out two Kent State (6-5) batters in the bottom of the eighth.

Jacob Watters took the mound in the top of the ninth. It took him five batters, but the freshman was able to close out the game and give the Mountaineers their first no-hitter since the 2007 season.

While the West Virginia (8-4) pitching staff was preventing Kent State from getting anything done offensively, the Mountaineers' offense was able to capitalize at the plate.

The team's offensive success began in the first inning as right fielder Austin Davis scored on a double from Vince Ippoliti, giving the Mountaineers an early lead.

West Virginia was able to add another run in the second inning when freshman infielder Matt McCormick connected on the first pitch he saw, sending it over the center field fence for a solo home run.

The third inning saw six Mountaineers come around to score, aided by a three-run home run by senior third baseman Kevin Brophy and a two-run home run by freshman center fielder Victor Scott.

With Strechay earning the win, Kent State starting pitcher Zach Shultz earned the loss. Shultz allowed eight runs over three innings of work.

The Mountaineers will hit the road this weekend, heading to the state of Georgia for a three-game series against Mercer. First pitch on Friday will come at 6 p.m., while games are slated to begin at 2 p.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

PHOTO BY LOGAN ADAMS

Right-hander Dillon Meadows was the first WVU reliever out of the bullpen.

PHOTO BY LOGAN ADAMS

Tyler Strechay did not allow a single one of his 15 batters faced on base.

PHOTO BY LOGAN ADAMS

WVU starting pitcher Tyler Strechay threw five perfect innings against Kent State.

PHOTO BY LOGAN ADAMS

Kevin Brophy (left), Tevin Tucker (center) and Tyler Doanes stand at attention during the National Anthem.

PHOTO BY LOGAN ADAMS

Outfielders Victor Scott (left), Braden Zarbnisky (center) and Austin Davis celebrate after the Mountaineer victory.

PHOTO BY LOGAN ADAMS

Freshman relief pitcher Jacob Watters pitched the ninth inning for WVU.

West Virginia to battle one-loss Mercer Bears

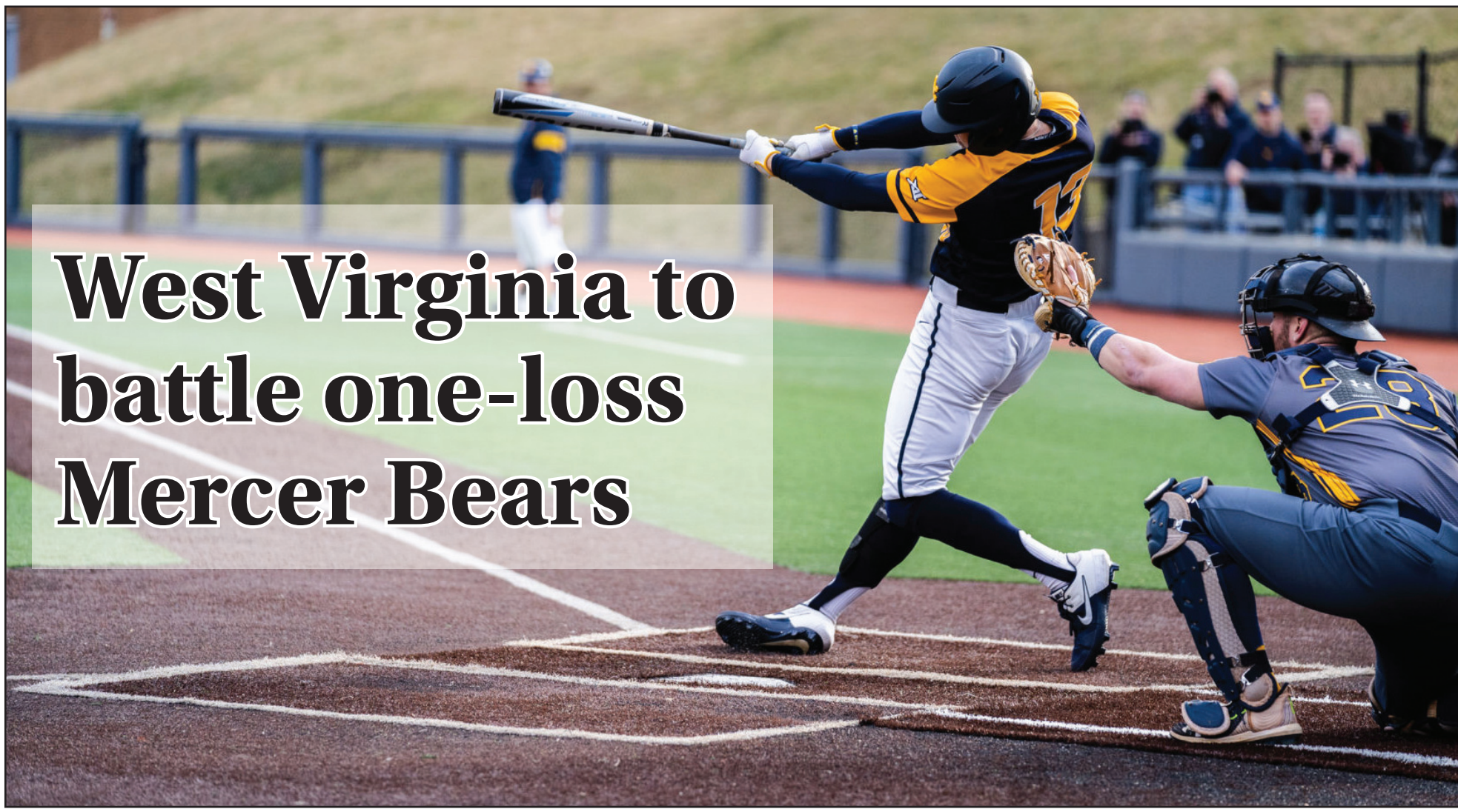

PHOTO BY LOGAN ADAMS

West Virginia third baseman Kevin Brophy connected for his first home run of the season on Wednesday.

BY JARED SERRE
SPORTS EDITOR

Just days removed from throwing a combined no-hitter against Kent State, the West Virginia baseball team will hit the road for its first road series since opening the season.

Starting on Friday, the Mountaineers will open up a three-game series against the Mercer Bears. It will be the first series against a single opponent for WVU since taking on Jacksonville on Feb. 14-16.

With an 11-1 record, Mercer currently ranks first in the Southern Conference. The Bears hold a 9-0 record in games played at home this season.

The team's lone loss came on the road Tuesday at the hands of No. 11 Florida State, 9-8.

Offensively, the Bears feature a multitude of players possessing batting averages that are .300 or higher.

Among everyday players, sophomore infielder Angelo DiSpigna leads the team with a .375 batting average. Senior infielder Brandon Michie (.366) and sophomore outfielder Bill Knight (.351) rank second and third, respectively.

The Bears are one of the stronger offensive teams in the Southern Conference, driving in 85 total runs over the team's first 12 games. Colby Thomas, a freshman outfielder, is tied for the individual conference lead with 18 RBI.

On the mound, sophomore Jackson Kelley holds the lowest ERA among the team's starting pitchers: 1.06. Kelley has allowed only four runs this season, with two of them being earned.

Garrett Matthes, a junior relief pitcher, has been a reliant arm out of the bullpen for the Bears. Over 11 innings pitched, the right-hander has held opposing hitters to a batting average of .105 while also striking out 14.

Looking for a successful weekend, West Virginia head coach Randy Mazey will be reliant on a string of strong performances from the team's pitching staff.

Jackson Wolf, the Mountaineers' Friday night starting pitcher, has been one of the team's most consistent pitchers this season.

A junior left-hander from Gahanna, Ohio, Wolf holds a 1.40 ERA — the highest among WVU's starting pitchers. Wolf currently ranks second on the team with 20 strikeouts, trailing fellow starting pitcher Ryan Bergert with 24.

At the plate, senior outfielder Braden Zarbnisky continues to lead the team. Following a 2-for-4 performance against Kent State, Zarbnisky ranks first on the team with a .471 batting average.

Freshman infielder Matt McCormick leads the team in home runs with three. He had previously been tied with teammate Paul McIntosh before connecting for a solo home run on Wednesday night.

All three games between WVU and Mercer will take place at OrthoGeorgia Park, located in Macon, Georgia. Friday's first pitch is scheduled for 6 p.m., while games on Sunday and Monday are slated to begin at 2 p.m. and 1 p.m., respectively.

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