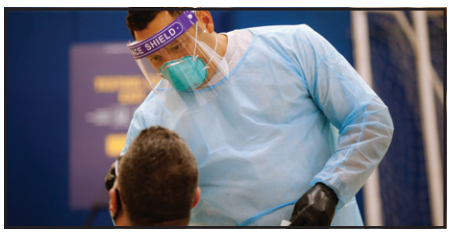
THE DA



WVU offers voluntary COVID-19 testing ahead of holiday

p. 3

WVU freshman takes the stage in Miss Teen USA pageant

p. 5

Tykee Smith driving Mountaineers defense during sophomore campaign

p. 9

@DailyAthenaeum | The Daily Athenaeum | dailyathenaeum | danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu

WVU's Independent Student Newspaper THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2020 www.thedaonline.com

Major higher ed cost reform under Biden unlikely, according to WVU professor

BY SADAF NIKZAD
CORRESPONDENT

President-elect Joe Biden has announced plans to make higher education more affordable to low-income students.

To do so, his plans include making community college available to students without debt, making public colleges and universities free for families with an income under $125,000, doubling the amount of money offered in a Pell Grant and offering loan forgiveness.

Erik Herron, the Eberly Family Professor of Political Science at WVU, said it is likely that the Republican Party will have a majority in the Senate, and Biden's legislative agenda will be directly affected by the makeup of Congress.

"Even if they don't obtain a majority, Sen. [Joe] Manchin has indicated that he opposes eliminating the filibuster," Herron said. "This means that ambitious legislative items, such as free college or an expansive COVID relief package, are highly unlikely to move forward."

Herron said that although the president can not legislate using executive actions, he could relieve loan pressure through policies enacted by the new secretary of education.

According to Biden's campaign website, the president-elect aims to create a new program that will offer $10,000 of debt relief to any undergraduate or graduate student for every year of national or community service they do, for up to five years.

Incoming first lady Jill Biden is a community college professor, and although she has not yet announced her plans, Herron said he believes that any initiative from her office will most likely be about education.

"I anticipate that a part of her message will be to encourage young people to take advantage of higher education, including community colleges," Herron said.

The Biden administration plans to make two years of community college or another high-quality training program free for any hard-working student, following up on a plan proposed by the Obama administration in 2015, according to Biden's campaign website.

According to the website, "Biden will build on this progress by enacting legislation to ensure that every hard-working individual, including those attending school part-time and DREAMers, can go to community college for up to two years without having to pay tuition."

Biden's website also says that students will also be able to use these funds to pursue training programs that have a track record of participants completing their programs and securing good jobs.

The program will be available to hard-working adults who were never given the opportunity to pursue higher education after high school as well as recent high school graduates. Students who want to pursue a four-year degree could transfer these community college credits to a four-year college.

PHOTO BY ADAM SCHULTZ/BIDEN FOR PRESIDENT

President-elect Joe Biden during an interview for the CBS program "60 Minutes" last month.

More in-person classes, transportation tweaks likely for upcoming spring semester

BY ZACHERY ANDERSON
CORRESPONDENT

As the 2020 fall semester comes to an end, WVU has begun to look ahead to the spring and decide on any major changes it plans to make.

WVU wants to move toward a somewhat normal college experience, but like the current semester, some continued sacrifices will have to be made to promote safety.

With some things not changing, and a few ideas not yet finalized, Rob Alsop, WVU's vice president of strategic initiatives, said many similarities could be found between what the University has done this semester and will do next semester.

"You can expect to see things similar to the fall in terms of COVID guidelines and testing," Alsop said. "We do have a lot more capacity from a testing perspective, and WVU's hospital has a lab in place that can do PCR testing on a more rapid basis."

Although guidelines will be mostly the same, Alsop said a negative test will be required to enter the classroom at the start of next semester.

In the classroom, Alsop said students can expect more opportunities for in-person instruction, especially in courses where in-person structures are essential.

"We're still working on a majority of classes for freshmen to have on-campus for that experience, as well as our graduate-level and capstone courses, and try to get as much of those as we can from an on-campus perspective," Alsop said. "In addition, our colleges really went through the schedule to try and find additional opportunities where we could be face to face."

Alsop said the amount of in-person and hybrid instruction will increase from 38% of classes this semester to 50% of classes next semester.

Alongside current guidelines and changes in the classroom, transportation and reopening of the Student Rec Center will be mostly similar to this semester, according to Alsop.

"We're still finalizing transportation, but it'll look a lot like the fall, and same thing with the Rec Center, with continued testing," Alsop said. "There will be an increased amount of coach buses, however, and they've been looking at the routes from the fall to see what worked and what we can enhance to work better in the spring."

According to a University MIX email, buses will follow the WVU Bus Routes on weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 10:15 p.m. and Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Heavy traffic or other unexpected traffic disruptions can cause increased wait times, so students should plan accordingly. Expected bus travel times can be found on the Transportation and Parking website.

Similarly to the refund distributed during the Fall 2020 semester, students with coursework entirely online will receive a refund for University fees up to $440.

Students with at least one in-person, hybrid or HyFlex class will not qualify for this refund, according to the MIX email. There will also be no reduction in housing or dining costs.

In light of new evidence, vaccine news and increased testing, Alsop thinks their work has helped reduce cases, keep transmission rates low and was overall a success.

"When we brought students back, we were able to catch some positives which helped to bring down cases to some extent, so we think the initial testing still makes a lot of sense," Alsop said. "And I think the classroom protocols and the protocols we had on campus were successful, so that's what's led us to believe that, unless something changes, we need to stay along that same path."

Feedback from students and staff about this semester and next semester has shown Alsop mixed reactions and people with different opinions, but the University will continue to attempt to meet "all of the above."

"It's been all over the board. We've had students who preferred face to face, some who preferred to be completely online, so what we've tried to accommodate is all of the above," Alsop said. "So, if you're that freshman or it's your senior year taking some of those graduate-level courses, where you need to be face to face, we're going to try to accommodate it.

WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY 11/20
MOSTLY SUNNY
HIGH 65° - LOW 49°

SATURDAY 11/21
CLOUDY
HIGH 56° - LOW 46°

SUNDAY 11/22
CLOUDY
HIGH 63° - LOW 44°

CRIME REPORT

POLICE LINE ▪ DO NOT CROSS ▪ POLICE LINE ▪ DO NOT CROSS ▪ POLICE LINE ▪ DO NOT CROSS ▪ POLICE LINE

NOV. 14
1:42 a.m. | Clear by Arrest
Sigma Chi Fraternity
DUI.

NOV. 14
2:44 a.m. | Closed - Resolved
WVU Boreman North
Drug Incident.

NOV. 14
3:37 a.m. | Clear by Warning
WVU Stalnaker Hall
ABCC Violation.

NOV. 14
4:14 a.m. | Clear by Warning
WVU Brooke Tower
ABCC Violation.

NOV. 14
9:22 p.m. | Clear by Warning
Prospect St. / North High St.
Traffic Stop.

NOV. 15
12:53 a.m. | Clear by Citation
Belmar Ave. / Price St.
ABCC Violation.

NOV. 15
1:54 a.m. | Clear by Warning
Hough St. / Beechurst Ave.
Traffic Stop.

NOV. 15
8:55 a.m. | Closed - Resolved
WVU Vandalia Hall Blue
Unsecure Building.

NOV. 15
7:32 p.m. | Investigations
WVU Milan Puskar Center
Destruction of Property.

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

THE DAILY ATHENAEUM
284 Prospect Street
Morgantown, WV 26506
304-293-4141

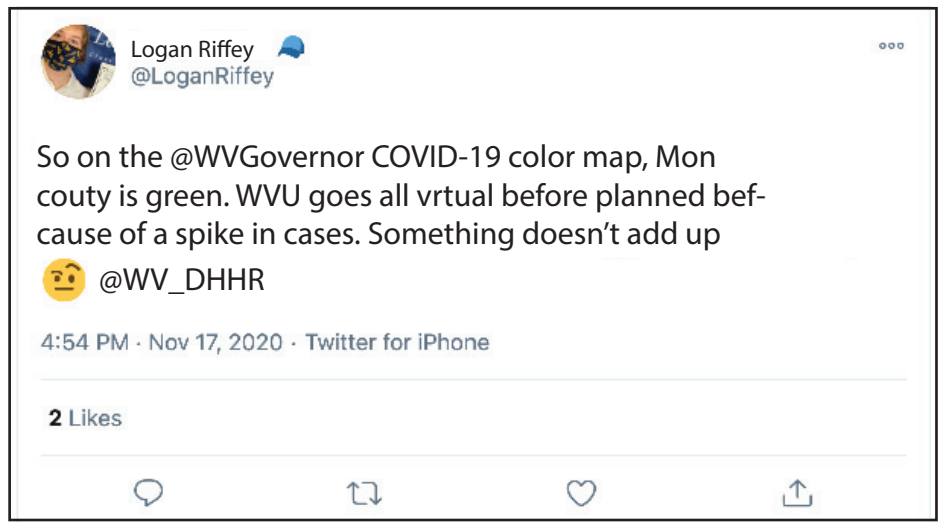
Advertising Opportunities
Contact our advertising team at 304-293-4141
da-ads@mail.wvu.edu

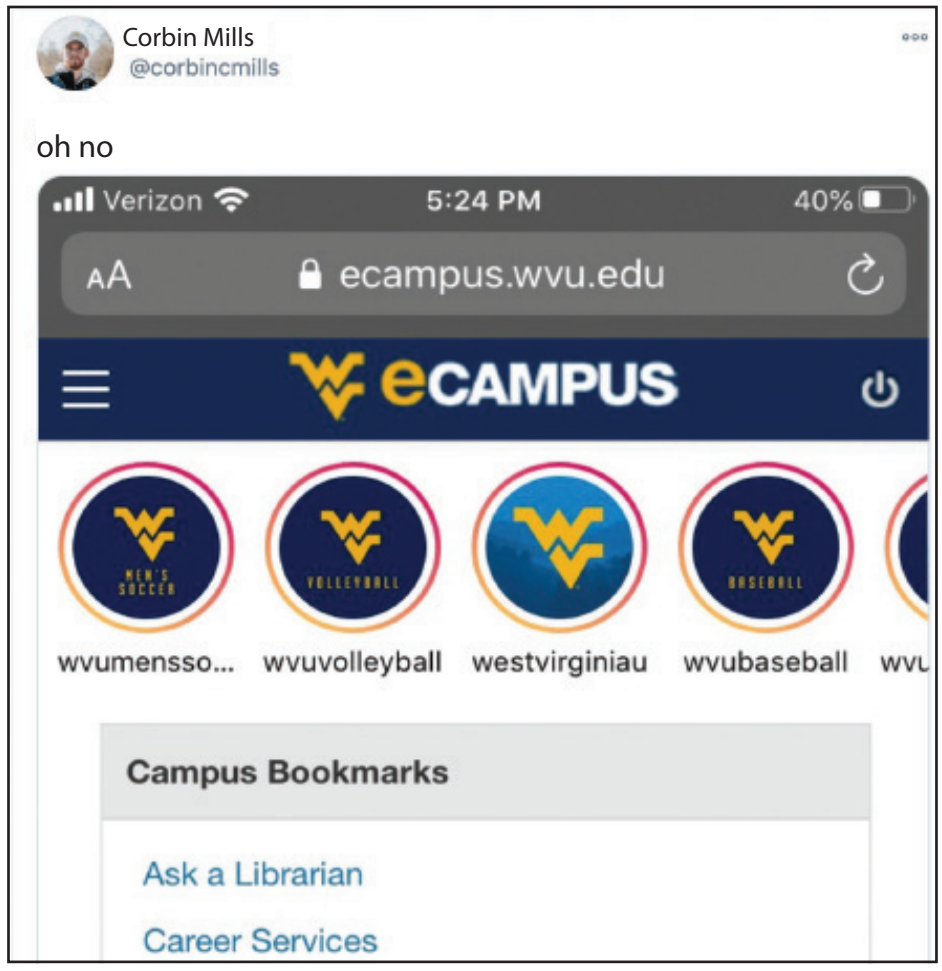
Breaking News
danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu

Corrections
danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu
The Daily Athenaeum strives for accuracy and fairness in the reporting of news. If a report is wrong or misleading a request for a correction or a clarification may be made.

dailyathenaeum

SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENTS





THE DA Staff
WVU's INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

NEWS
Jared Serre
Editor-in-Chief
Cole McClanahan
Managing Editor
Patrick Orsagos
Digital Managing Editor
Caroline Murphy
Layout Design Chief
Annika Godwin
Layout Designer
Gabriella Brown
News Editor
Hannah Hebel
Assistant News Editor
Matthew Digby
Sports Editor
Charles Montgomery
Assistant Sports Editor
Raeanne Beckner
Culture Editor
Craig Weimer
Assistant Culture Editor
Emily Rexroad
Opinion Editor
Abby Smith
Podcast Manager
Trenton Straight
Video Manager
Duncan Slade
Photo Manager
Caylie Silveira
Multimedia Manager

ADVERTISING
Stephanie Alvaro
Media Consultant
Jillian Catalano
Media Consultant
Jordan Coddington
Media Consultant
Tristan Haley
Media Consultant
Sydney Harris
Media Consultant
Raymond Lapoint
Media Consultant
Olivia Mace
Media Consultant
Kaylie McGraw
Media Consultant
Amanda Reh
Media Consultant
Sarah Stanford
Media Consultant
Rylan Toledo
Media Consultant
Nicolas Uribe
Media Consultant

PROSPECT & PRICE CREATIVE
Anna Chaney
Podcaster/Newsletter Editor
Kelsey Dowling
Graphics Specialist

GRADUATE ASSISTANT
Rita Okonji

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

THE DA WVU's INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Editor:
Gabriella Brown
gb0036@mix.wvu.edu

NEWS

Assistant Editor:
Hannah Hebel
hbh0005@mix.wvu.edu

City to clean up Diamond Village homeless camp by end of month

BY CRYSTAL CHECK
STAFF WRITER

The Diamond Village homeless camp is set to be cleared on Nov. 30 by the city of Morgantown after a notice was placed on the property last week.

The notice states, "No person is permitted to remain on the property beyond this date."

The Diamond Village homeless encampment consists of a group of people experiencing homelessness in Morgantown. It is located on city property between Pennsylvania Ave and Deckers Creek in a collection of tents and other structures built by the residents.

In August, the Morgantown City Council ordered the clearing of this space, but promised they wouldn't do so until it was completely vacated. The West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness (WVCEH) began to register and move around 20 people residing in the encampment into housing with the help of the Bartlett House, a homeless shelter in Morgantown.

In September, the city of Morgantown offered incentives for local landlords to rent to homeless individuals, including those at Diamond Village. A $500 leasing bonus and $1,500 for damage claims were among the incentives offered.

According to Keri DeMasi, CEO and executive director of the Bartlett House, of the original group that was registered, all but one person has been moved into housing or accepted a housing offer, and the one remaining resident is currently looking at possible apartments.

Opinions on the situation are mixed. Liira Raines, a volunteer with Justice for Diamond Village, said that she believes the Bartlett House exaggerated the number of residents at the encampment at 50, when she witnessed only 15 residents there at the time.

She also claims that, of the people originally housed in July, eight of them are currently being evicted.

"They have totally broken their promise to house our 25 people on the list," Raines said. "A couple are in jail, but still at last count they'd housed eight I believe. At least one is still in the village, unhoused."

There are still people living in the encampment. The number of people currently residing there has not been determined by city officials or the Bartlett House. With the city moving forward with the clean-up of the property, DeMasi said the Bartlett House and the WVCEH are still working to help those in need of housing.

"Anytime we've encountered anybody down there that hasn't been on the original registration list, we really encourage them to, and educate them that the system is in place and these agencies are in place to still assist them into getting into housing," DeMasi said, "We will continue to work with them after the Diamond Village is closed and the encampment is closed."

DeMasi says that anybody

PHOTO BY JAMES KNABLE

A notice of closure sign is displayed at Diamond Village, a homeless encampment that runs along Deckers Creek.

experiencing homelessness in Morgantown should reach out to the Bartlett House or the WVCEH, even by walking in to the Bartlett House, they can help an individual analyze what their barriers to housing are, and they will work with them to overcome those barriers.

"The city didn't want to just displace people, that's why it's been going on as long as it has, they really wanted everybody to have the option to accept housing," DeMasi said.

WVU offers voluntary COVID-19 testing ahead of holiday

BY CHRISTINA RUFO
STAFF WRITER

Due to a spike in COVID-19 cases and WVU students heading home for the end of the semester, WVU is offering free, voluntary testing for students.

Time slots to complete testing will be available Nov. 16 through Nov. 24, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Student Rec Center.

Approaching the final weeks of the fall 2020 semester, WVU is encouraging students to take part in free voluntary COVID-19 testing prior to leaving campus for Thanksgiving break.

Freshman Jillian Blackburn wanted to take the opportunity to get tested for free before leaving for the remainder of the semester.

"I chose to get tested because I live with my grandma and want to be cautious of possibly exposing her to the virus, but I'm not worried about possibly testing positive," Blackburn said.

PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

Master Sgt. Jordan Killebrew, an Air Force medic, swabs a community member at the Student Rec Center.

Other students don't see the need to be tested before going home, considering they have already made it through the semester without being ill.

Senior social work student Emily Ahmuty is one of the many students who are choosing not to get tested before returning home.

Ahmuty already had COVID-19 at the beginning of the semester, and her parents haven't asked for her to be tested. She doesn't have any major holiday plans that would expose elderly family members, and she plans to just spend time with a small group of friends while in town.

> *"I don't get COVID, I'm just built different."*
>
> *-Bryce Vontsolos, freshman at West Virginia University*

"I myself don't feel the need to get a test when I've already had it and the antibodies should at least last a month or two more, although I don't believe I can really get it again anytime soon," Ahmuty said.

Bryce Vontsolos, a freshman graphic design student, said that he is not be concerned about being tested.

"I don't get COVID," Vontsolos said. "I'm just built different."

Students should receive their test results within three to five days. WVU urges students to continue to follow the University's safety protocols while awaiting their results.

"I think the school did a good job of providing opportunities for students to get tested, but I think they should have made periodic testing mandatory throughout the semester to keep students safe," Blackburn said.

Students, both residential and those living off-campus, who test positive for COVID-19 may choose to stay in Morgantown to complete the isolation process.

Students also may choose to return home to isolate, but those who remain on-campus will be provided accommodations and meals at no charge.

Similarly, residential students who are identified as a close contact to someone who tests positive for COVID-19 may choose to stay in Morgantown or return home to quarantine.

University to host on-campus drive for unwanted medication

BY CHRISTINA RUFO
STAFF WRITER

West Virginia University's Office of Health Promotion and Wellness will host two medication disposal events prior to students' departure from campus for the holidays.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, the campus community is invited to stop by the Mountainlair near Hatfields to safely dispose of unwanted or expired medications.

A second drop off will be held from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday outside of the Towers residence hall. Residence hall students living on the Evansdale campus can drop off medications at the MedSafe kiosk under the Towers canopy.

"With this medication disposal system, we can safely accept prescription medications, over the counter medications and liquid medication bottles less than four ounces," said Tara Hulsey, vice president of Health Promotion and Wellness.

The group recently purchased metal medication disposal kiosks for easy public access. Amy Sidwell, director of Health Promotion and Wellness, asks that liquid medication be put in a Ziploc bag before being dropped off to prevent any leakage.

Police officers will be stationed at the kiosks to ensure public safety, but the event itself is anonymous. Those dropping off medication simply need to place it in the metal box at the designated locations, and no other action is required.

"These events are opportunities to get rid of medicines so we can keep pills from becoming dangerous over the holiday break," said University Police Capt. Sherry St. Clair.

In addition to protecting human health, recent studies suggest that flushing medicine down a toilet or drain threatens the health of marine ecosystems.

"Participating in a drug take back program is the best way to ensure an environmentally-safe disposal process," said Stephanie Toothman, a conservation specialist at WVU.

While the kiosk will be at the Mountainlair on Friday and Towers residence hall on Saturday, the kiosk's permanent location is in the University Police Department's lobby at 992 Elmer Prince Drive.

The WVU Police Department is open 24 hours a day, year-round, with free visitor parking.

"Having the kiosk at the Police Department allows the community to dispose of unused medicines when it's convenient," Sidwell said.

PHOTO BY JAMES KNABLE

Towers residential complex on the Evansdale campus.

Goodwill
North Central West Virginia
OPEN
INTERVIEW DAY
at the new Goodwill Outlet
Tuesday, December 1st
11am-3pm
Located next to Rural King
6540 Mall Rd., Morgantown, WV 26501
We will be interviewing & hiring on-the-spot!
Part-time & full-time positions available.
Computers available to apply in person or apply online prior to the event at
www.goodwillncwv.org/jobs
Walk-ins welcome!

WHY LIVE WITH RICHWOOD PROPERTIES? ITS SIMPLE!
- 2 minute walk to High street
- 5 minute walk to WVU's downtown campus & PRT
- Pet friendly
- Great neighbors
- 24 hour maintenance
- Many 1, 2, 3, 8 bedroom units
- Want to rent a house with all your friends? No Problem!

Visit richwoodproperties.com and see all of our properties!
Contact mray@RichwoodProperties.com to set up a time for an in-house tour!

Editor:
Raeanne Beckner
rmb0035@mix.wvu.edu

CULTURE

Assistant Editor:
Craig Weimer
ctw0012@mix.wvu.edu

WVU freshman takes the stage in Miss Teen USA pageant

BY LARA BONATESTA
STAFF WRITER

Sophia Martino is a freshman general business student at WVU who recently competed in the Miss Teen USA pageant as Miss West Virginia Teen USA 2020.

"It was a dream come true," Martino said. "When I first started pageants five years ago, my goal was to compete at Miss West Virginia Teen USA; that was always the goal, so it took a few years to prep for it but being able to represent the state has just been everything and more."

This year, Martino and her fellow Miss Teen USA contestants traveled to Memphis, Tennessee, to compete on the national stage. The pageant consisted of evening gown and active wear competitions, Zoom interviews and onstage questions for the top 15 contestants.

The Zoom interview format was not the only thing unusual about this year's competition.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTINO
Martino sightseeing in Memphis.

PHOTO BY JESSIELYN PALUMBO/ JESSIELYN PALUMBO PHOTOGRAPHY
Martino competes on stage in a Sherri Hill gown at the Miss Teen USA Preliminary Competitions on Nov. 6.

"Usually at Miss Teen USA, you do a lot of events and go to different places, but we had to limit ourselves on that, so we just made sure to wear masks everywhere that we did go," Martino said.

While in Memphis, contestants were able to visit the Elvis Presley Museum as well as Graceland, the late singer's former home.

Martino also described the many safety precautions put into place to keep everyone safe. During the week, Martino said she was tested for COVID-19 three times. Other precautions included dividing into small groups and wearing masks.

"We wore masks at all times and we did rehearsals and we had meals together, but in small groups," Martino said. "I was in a group of 10, so each group hangs out with each other kind of, and you go to rehearsals, go to practice, and even backstage before we got on that national stage, we had our masks on."

Martino's reign as Miss West Virginia Teen USA began on Oct. 27, 2019. She said that the role of Miss West Virginia Teen USA is not only a title but a job. She explained that competing in pageants is not about being the most beautiful, it is about being the best version of oneself.

"I think a lot of stereotypes are that these girls aren't smart, or you know, they're just pretty, and that's not it," Martino said. "Competing at Miss Teen USA, there were some of the most intelligent, goal-oriented and just girls that genuinely want to make a difference."

She has since used her platform to raise awareness on issues she is passionate about.

"I was able to work with the Mountaineer Food Bank, which is our state's largest emergency food provider, and I even held my own event with them, it was called 'Queens Helping the Hungry,'" Martino said.

When COVID-19 hit, Martino stayed active on her social media, posting about resources for food and shelter and participating in online events.

Martino said that one of her favorite parts of being Miss West Virginia Teen USA is having the opportunity to meet other people from around the country and especially from her home state.

"I really love being able to meet people in my state and just bring a smile to their faces; that's something," she said. "Like, just by going out to parades or events and just talking to fellow West Virginians and seeing how excited they are to meet the representative of West Virginia."

Metropolitan Billiards Parlor racks up history, cues new management

BY CRAIG WEIMER
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

Secret prohibition tunnels, working-class specials and plain parlor fun: the Metropolitan Billiard Parlor's rich history will continue under new management.

From the bar service to the free date night pool to the unkempt and untimely atmosphere, the Metropolitan Billiard Parlor, located at 371 High St., represents all the uniqueness Morgantown has to offer. Its new co-owner, Chris Evans, said he plans to keep that atmosphere going as he acquires the Parlor.

"This is an almost 100-year-old pool hall that opened in 1924, and over the century there's been several owners," Evans said. "We have always loved this place, though it could use a little fixing up and cleaning, but you can't rebuild this kind of aesthetic. Its history that's been put in a capsule: original floors, the pool tables are from the '30s and '40s, so there's a lot of history here."

Less attentive owners might buy a building thinking of it simply as a place to do business. Evans, however, has a history with the building, and wants to ensure that it stays the same unique venue it has always been.

"Absolutely I'm trying to carry on a legacy, like it's a responsibility for this place to be here," Evans said. "There's a lot of history on the walls, and a lot of stories from locals about the history of the business."

Evans, who is a WVU alumnus, was born and raised in Morgantown.

"The first time I came here I was probably about 14 years old, and it was like a dream. I walked down here for the first time in probably eighth grade and was like, 'Wow, look at all these pool tables, and this place — so old!'" Evans said. "Into my 20s, I used to introduce out-of-towners to this place. Before owning the place, people would come to town and wanna see something unique and I'd say, 'Hey, go to Gene's in South Park and go to Metropolitan Billiard Parlor.'"

Evans explained the history of the venue, from its original Greek immigrant owners, the Comuntzis, all the way up to the present day. He also included tales and rumors ranging from 100-year-old Budweiser posters to secret bootlegging tunnels, which supposedly ran under High Street.

"Part of this is 100% fact," he said. "Some might be legend. There's some old sewer lines under High Street that connect one side of the street to the other, and supposedly back when the building was built, the same people built this building as the same building across the street, and we've always heard legends and rumors that during prohibition they used to use the tunnel to run booze back and forth, hide it from one place to the other."

The Metropolitan Billiard Parlor plans to revive some of its old traditions as well as creating some new ones. These will include free "Date Night" pool, which is a free hour of pool with a receipt from a local restaurant. They will also have "Industry Night," free pool from 8 to 10 p.m. on Sunday's, and half-price from 10 p.m., aimed at local food service workers. They will also include "Brunch 'n Billiards," free pool with an Iron Horse Tavern receipt on Sunday's.

A pet friendly community that has totally reimagined what student housing can be.

Now leasing Fall 2020!

(304) 291-4250
Stateoncampus.com
@StateMorgantown

TAKE A FACETIME TOUR TODAY!

State
MORGANTOWN

Editor:
Duncan Slade
err0007@mix.wvu.edu

PHOTO

Women in STEM: Breaking down barriers

BY MALIA RICHARDSON
PHOTOGRAPHER

For years, women have been outnumbered by men in the STEM field and face numerous obstacles as they pursue those careers.

According to 2019 data from the U.S. Department of Labor, women hold just 16% of all engineering jobs. On the West Virginia University campus, women account for an estimated 23% of all engineering majors.

A lack of representation of women in the field is often cited as making it more difficult for women to succeed in both educational and professional settings. Female engineering students face issues ranging from isolation to self-doubt.

A 2013 analysis by the U.S. Department of Education found that women are more likely to leave a STEM program. While 25% of men switched out of STEM, over 32% of women in college left STEM for other majors.

The WVU chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) is focused on helping women succeed in the classroom and find opportunities for professional development.

The society is also heavily involved in volunteer events as well as community outreach amongst girls in the local community to educate them about the possibilities of STEM careers. This national organization has helped many students since its founding in 1950 and is a key factor in success for countless women in engineering.

The Daily Athenaeum spoke with several members of the Society of Women Engineers about their experiences in engineering and what the organization has to offer.

Tabitha Sponagule is a sophomore civil engineering student. She said she was inspired to be an engineer by her grandfather, who is also an engineer.

To stay motivated while being a woman pursuing a degree in STEM, she said she always reminds herself to not let what others say and think about you, define you.

DA: How has the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) helped you thrive as a woman in engineering?

T.S.: SWE has helped me thrive as a woman in engineering by giving me a great network of friends and professionals. Your network is a vital tool for your success in any career, and SWE has allowed me to expand mine and meet many people who I would not have met otherwise.

After joining SWE, I make sure to be there for other women and inspire them to chase their dreams and never give up, even if society tells you otherwise.

DA: With the large gap between men and women in engineering, how can we encourage more girls to become engineers?

T.S.: Engineering should never be labeled as "a man's jobs." I think it is important to educate girls at a young age that they can do anything they aspire to. Also, getting them involved in things such as SWE's "Girls STEM Day" event will show them that their options are endless, and a girl can do absolutely anything a man can.

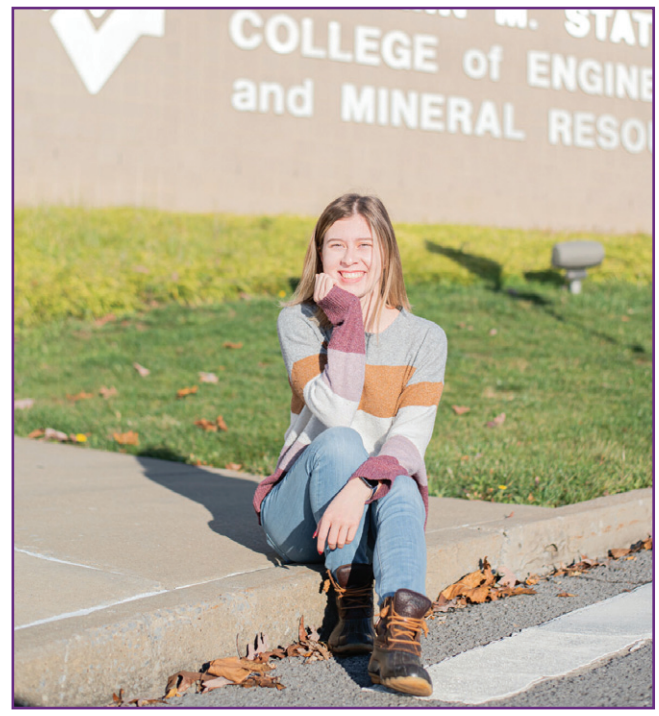


PHOTO BY MALIA RICHARDSON
Tabitha Sponagule sits in front of the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources sign.

PHOTO BY MALIA RICHARDSON
Savannah Hays poses in her Society of Women Engineers mask and t-shirt.

Savannah Hays is a junior biomedical engineering student. As a biomedical engineering student, she said she was able to combine her love of engineering and medicine into one degree.

She enjoys being a first-generation female engineering student because it sets her apart from the majority of her peers, Hays said.

DA: What do you do on campus to get involved in your major and prepare you for your career?

S.H.: At WVU, I am the Secretary of the Society of Women Engineers. I have been involved in SWE since my freshman year and held various positions such as co-historian and co-chair for an outreach event.

After completing the Honors Foundation Program, I was accepted into the Honors EXCEL program, and my project there focuses on improving high school STEM outreach in West Virginia through the development of a SWENext Club. The main goal of this program is to inspire more females to pursue engineering careers and provide them with resources and mentorship.

I am also an undergraduate research student in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Department of Neuroscience. My research has focused on studying facial processing in individuals with autism spectrum disorder using functional magnetic resonance imaging.

DA: What inspired you to become an engineer? Was there a certain role model you looked up to or an event that caused you to choose engineering?

S.H.: I was inspired to become an engineer by one of my former basketball coaches.

Growing up, I always debated whether I wanted to be a doctor or an engineer.

When I found out about biomedical engineering, I immediately knew that would be the perfect combination of my interests and help me pursue my career goals.

Sophomore civil engineering student Sam Mariano is involved in numerous organizations on campus, including the Society of Women Engineers and the Concrete Canoe team.

On the team, Mariano works with a group of students to design a canoe made out of concrete and compete in numerous categories at a regional competition.

She said she joined so she could gain practical project experience and meet other students within her engineering discipline.

DA: Have you ever felt out of place or an "imposter" in your classes or workplace as a woman in STEM?

S.M.: Definitely. I've learned recently that imposter syndrome is extremely real amongst women in STEM. I remember entering my first semester of college as a freshman and struggling to keep up with the class worksheets in my Calculus 1 class because my peers could solve the problems quicker than I could start them.

I think more open discussions regarding the difficulties that women in STEM face with imposter syndrome and proving themselves to others would be beneficial in minimizing this issue.

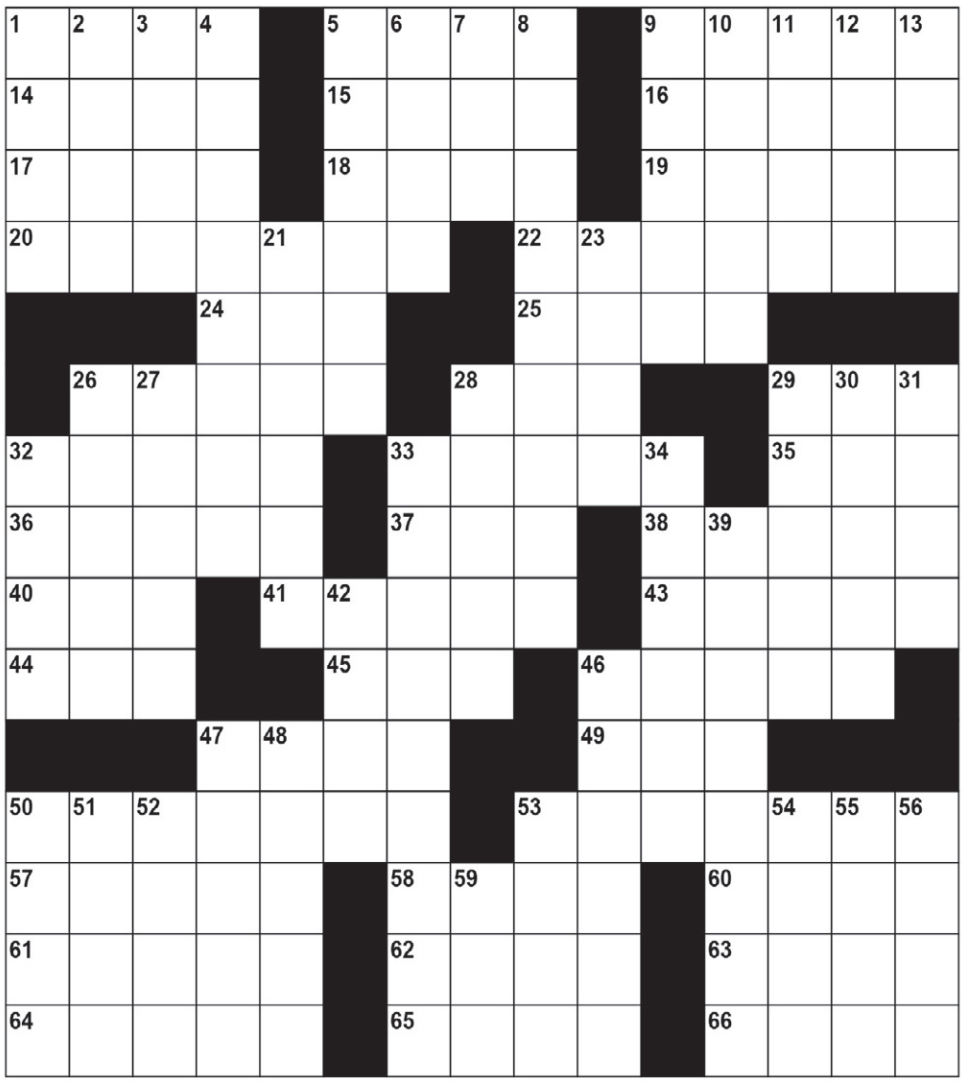
DA: Why do you think there is such a large variation between men and women in engineering?

S.M.: Often, men have the advantage in receiving opportunities in STEM. My male peers were encouraged to start as soon as possible in coding, math, and science, and most of them were inclined towards those subjects to begin with.

Women aren't really encouraged as much at that same age, although outreach programs have grown and developed in recent years. There is also the issue of women in engineering lacking the support system that men in engineering often build with each other – it ca n be extremely isolating at times since there isn't a lot of women in engineering to start, and often it is hard for them to find things in common with each other. This isolation alone is intimidating itself

PHOTO BY MALIA RICHARDSON
Sam Mariano stands next to the WVU Concrete Canoe team's current design.

CROSSWORD



Across

1 Animals talon
5 Carved Polynesian pendant
9 Viper
14 Watering device
15 Paradise
16 Cake
17 __ Minor (Little Dipper)
18 Children's love
19 Witless
20 Alcohol type
22 Banned
24 Biddy
25 Opening in fence
26 Layers
28 West northwest
29 South southwest
32 Money
33 Dardic language
35 Sticky black substance
36 List of highly desired guests
37 Central Intelligence Agency
38 __ you were sleeping
40 Contend
41 Aromas
43 Mr. Ryan
44 Rainy mo.
45 Possessive pronoun
46 Longed
47 Long time
49 Ending
50 Group of fruit trees
53 Most unclear
57 Whiter
58 Raise
60 Yard tool with teeth
61 Wonted
62 Cruel
63 Land mass
64 Storage buildings
65 Glasses part
66 Earns

Down

1 Buddy
2 Belief
3 Association (abbr.)
4 Endures
5 "Grand" mountains
6 False god graven image
7 Opens lock
8 Symbols
9 Leaning
10 Receiver of a gift
11 Dawdle
12 Bunsen burner
13 Careen
21 To this document
23 Front and back green areas
26 Spring flower
27 Colder
28 Purr
29 Steps for crossing a fence
30 Slaw
31 Small bird
32 Molten rock
33 Rogue
34 Sun shade
39 Honduras nature
42 Entry
46 Ocean gems
47 Leading
48 Dukes
50 Sonata
51 Reckless
52 Hint
53 Conceited
54 Relieve
55 Act
56 What Celestial Seasonings makes
59 First woman

For answers, visit thedaonline.com

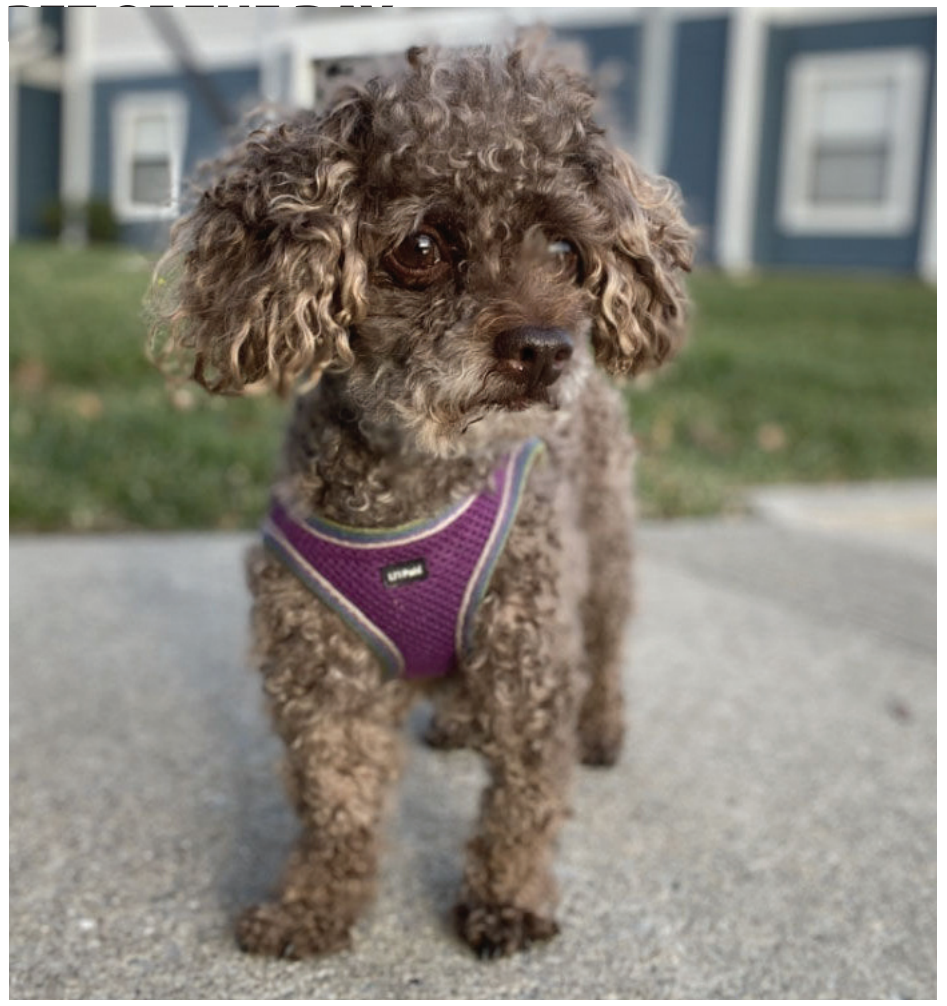


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CHRISTINA WHITE

Meet Pablo, a 5-pound Teacup poodle, but his attitude makes up for it! He's no lap dog; he regularly goes on 5-mile walks and runs on the rail trail. Pablo's best friend is a 15-pound cat, who he bosses around in the funniest way. Pablo knows how to shake, roll over, spin, jump and speak on command, and we're working on playing dead! Pablo is also a vegetarian and loves microwaveable veggie burgers.

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

SUDOKU

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

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

For answers, visit thedaonline.com

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

© 2013 KrazyDad.com

Editor:
Matthew Digby
mmd0003@mix.wvu.edu

SPORTS

Assistant Editor:
Charles Montgomery
ccm0019@mix.wvu.edu

FILE PHOTO

Guard Kysre Gondrezick dribbles into the paint against a TCU defender in a game last season.

Carey, Mountaineers preparing for 2020 with veteran team

BY DANNY KUHN
SPORTS WRITER

For the first time since March, the West Virginia women's basketball team will play a game, with its season opener scheduled for Nov. 27.

Last season, the Mountaineers were fighting hard for a spot in the NCAA Tournament by way of the Big 12 Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri, but that opportunity never presented itself. In a year that was marked by initial success followed by heavy struggles on the back half of its schedule, WVU was left without an official conclusion to the season following the cancellation of postseason play for the 2019-20 season due to COVID-19.

The Mountaineers wouldn't take to the court together again as a team until Oct. 14, seven months later, when initial pre-season practice began. Head coach Mike Carey and the Mountaineers took to the court that day with a squad left mostly untouched from the previous season.

"The Big 12 is the one who's been making all the protocols and decisions for this season, but I am just happy that we are going to be playing some basketball," Carey said.

Carey believes this year's team will be much deeper in the paint with Kari Niblack, Esmery Martinez, Rochelle Norris and Blessing Ejiofor all returning. West Virginia will also see some newcomers in the lineup this winter, including Ariel Cummings, a junior transfer from Chipola Community College, where she was voted to the 2019-20 all-conference team.

Cummings, a shooting forward, will provide strong outside perimeter shooting, and consistency from behind the three-point line, an area where the Mountaineers struggled heavily during their 1-12 stretch late last season.

Senior guard Kysre Gondrezick is the team's leading returning scorer averaging 15.3 points per game in 2019-20. She shot nearly 35% from 3-point range while making a team-best 58 triples.

Inside the paint and close to the basket is another area where WVU will continue to be strong, boasting one of the tallest front courts in the Big 12 conference.

Carey and the Mountaineers hit the transfer window hard over the offseason, bringing in two players in addition to the aforementioned Cummings, in Mississippi State transfer Jayla Hemingway, who was granted immediate eligibility. The 5-foot-10 wing was the 2019 Tennessee Player of the Year and averaged nearly 23 points and eight rebounds per game during her senior season at Houston High School in Collierville, Tennessee.

Georgia Tech transfer Jasmine Carson is also a 5-foot-10 guard. Carson, a junior, averaged 9.7 points and 3.2 rebounds per game last season for the Yellow Jackets including a season-high 26 points in a win against East Tennessee State.

"Teams that have a lot of people back will have an early advantage," Carey said. "Teams that have a lot of new players coming in, with the time taken away, it's going to be a process."

Another new addition for the West Virginia program is assistant coach Nitra Perry, a former coach and player at Mississippi State.

"Coach Perry has a lot of coaching experience," Carey said. "She has been a head coach before, played Power 5 basketball and played overseas. I wanted to get somebody with a lot of experience here. Other than me, we are very young on the coaching staff, and I wanted another coach who is a role model and a mentor and coach Perry fits that."

As for the season itself, the schedule was up in the air until it was released in early November. The Mountaineers open the season from Nov. 27-28 at the South Point Thanksgiving Shootout at the South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. WVU begins the tournament with a matchup against Fresno State on Nov. 27, before concluding the weekend against LSU on Nov. 28.

WVU will open its home slate on Dec. 3 against North Alabama before welcoming Tennessee to Morgantown on Dec. 6 for the Big 12/SEC Challenge.

Deep and talented men's basketball team gets set to start season

BY MATTHEW DIGBY
SPORTS EDITOR

PHOTO BY JAMES KNABLE

Freshman guard Miles McBride conducts a huddle during a game last season.

As November begins to wind down and Thanksgiving is right around the corner, basketball season is finally ready to return after an extra-long offseason due to COVID-19.

After last season's success, the West Virginia men's basketball team just wanted an opportunity to play. This may be one of the deepest teams that head coach Bob Huggins has assembled since taking over in 2007 as each position on the floor has at least two players that could receive significant playing time.

At the point guard position, junior Jordan McCabe and sophomore Deuce McBride are expected to carry a majority of the load. McBride made a name for himself last year, bursting onto the scene when he scored 21 points in an upset victory over then-No. 2 Ohio State. McCabe is coming off a down year where he struggled to shoot the ball, but Huggins said that he has been working hard to get back to his usual self.

"In all honesty, Jordan shot it poorly for Jordan last year. He did a great job this summer," Huggins said. "He's shooting the ball really well [in practice]. He's just not shooting it a lot, but he's shooting it really well."

At the guard positions, there are two junior college transfers that are ready to step up in their second season in the program with the likes of senior Taz Sherman and junior Sean McNeil. They each led the team in three-point shooting last season at 33%. Another transfer, Kedrian Johnson, will look to get some minutes as a defensive stopper and one of the best scorers coming out of junior college this season.

Junior Emmitt Matthews Jr. and redshirt freshman Jalen Bridges will likely receive a bulk of the minutes at the wing position. Matthews had an up and down season last year but will look to become more of a leader in his third year in the program. In the last game of the season, the Mountaineers knocked off No. 4 Baylor behind Matthews scoring a season-high 18 points. Freshman Taj Thweatt could chip in a few minutes as an athletic wing player out of New Jersey.

To finish out the roster, there are four big men that will rotate the four and five positions on the floor. Junior Derek Culver and sophomore Oscar Tshiebwe have been on the national radar for being one of the most feared frontcourts in the nation. They combined for 21.6 points and 17.9 rebounds per game last year. Huggins has said that Culver has been the most productive player in practice so far.

"I think the person who dominates practice is Derek," Huggins said. "Derek's team generally wins all the time, and Derek gets the majority of the rebounds and they look to throw it inside to Derek quite a bit, particularly when it's a close situation."

Coming in to relieve Culver and Tshiebwe will be defensive stopper Gabe Osabuohien and top-100 recruit Isaiah Cottrell. Osabuohien was known best for his all-out hustle and energy that earned him quality minutes in key situations. Cottrell has shown a lot of potential to stretch the defense and has a lot of skill to tap into.

The season is set to begin on Nov. 25 when the Mountaineers take on Northern Iowa after Texas A&M decided to withdraw from the Bad Boy Mowers Crossover Classic. The game is set to tip off at 2 p.m. and will be nationally televised on ESPN.

Tykee Smith driving Mountaineers defense during sophomore campaign

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

PHOTO BY BEN QUEEN/USA TODAY SPORTS

WVU safety Tykee Smith intercepts a pass from TCU quarterback Max Duggan and runs for extra yards.

The West Virginia defense has had many players step up and make superstar plays throughout the year. One player that has received recognition during the 2020 season is sophomore spear linebacker Tykee Smith.

As a freshman, Smith earned Football Writers Association of America Freshman All-American honors after appearing in 12 games and starting eight. In the preseason for the 2020 campaign, Smith was named to the Preseason All-Big 12 Fourth Team.

Smith was tremendous last year for the Mountaineers, but now, he's gotten even better. In eight games, Smith has 28 total tackles, 27 assisted tackles, eight tackles for loss and two interceptions.

"He plays what we call our spear position, which is basically our nickel position," WVU head coach Neal Brown said of Smith's versatility. "At that position, you have to be able to play the run, but then you need to play man coverage and then zone coverage and be able to blitz. We're asking a lot of him."

Most recently against TCU, Smith finished with eight total tackles, one tackle for loss and an interception. The interception came late in the contest to hold the Horned Frogs out of the end zone and secure the 24-6 victory. With his performance, Smith was awarded Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week.

Brown acknowledged Smith's ability but emphasized the importance of the sophomore progressing his skills during the offseason.

"I think he's got several things that he needs to work on," Brown said. "His best football is in the future, and I think a huge emphasis on this offseason will be changing his body. He's going to have to be versatile, and he needs to be able to play at a high safety and nickel position to make himself a better candidate to play at the next level."

Smith is with a cast of players on this WVU defense that ranks No. 1 in the Big 12 conference in total defense and No. 5 nationally in the FBS. The Mountaineers also rank No. 7 in the FBS in interceptions with 10 this season.

Brown wants to feature Smith through the defense due to his belief in Smith's ability in the spear position.

"At that position, you want a physical corner," Brown said on the spear position. "I think Tykee can do that; he can go out and play corner in this league and be competitive. Whether its offense, defense or special teams, you try to feature your best players. Without a doubt, we think he is our best football player and we're trying to put him in a position where the ball gets to him."

CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S FOOTBALL PICKS AT THEDAONLINE.COM

BUILDING COMMUNITY WELLBEING WHEREVER YOU MAY BE

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

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

Vibhat Seth

Vibhat Seth is a senior studying Computer Engineering with a minor in Communications. Vibhat was nominated by two people because of his strong commitment to community wellbeing. According to Vibhat, "Community matters most to me." His father Vikas and his mother Shilpa taught him that "health comes first!" Vibhat believes health and wellness should be core human values.

As member of the WVU community, Vibhat promotes WVU values. He is a Mountaineer Maskot, who spreads the message that it is important to follow mask-wearing, physical distancing, and handwashing guidelines to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. He has been concerned about parties spreading the virus, and has talked to numerous WVU students, faculty, and parents. Those conversations also helped Vibhat adjust to working from home, while also helping others talk to someone outside their families during the pandemic.

Outside Vibhat's coursework, he enjoys Zoom-calling friends, photography, and baking.

WestVirginiaUniversity.
HEALTH PROMOTION AND WELLNESS

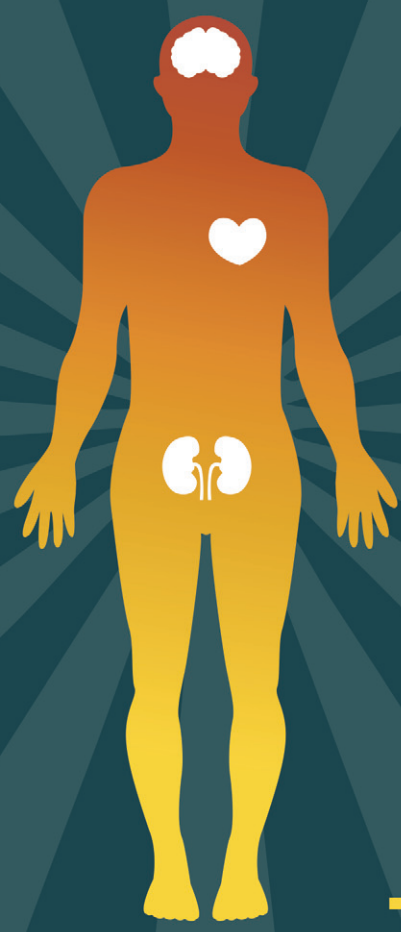
Do you want to nominate someone for the Building Community Wellbeing Wherever You May Be campaign? Send your nomination to *amsidwell@hsc.wvu.edu*.

Stress Building Up?

Stress builds up in our bodies in the form of the hormone cortisol.

This weakens our immune system and can lead to us feeling fatigued. There are three ways to release cortisol from our bodies: *peeing, sweating, or crying.*

For more information, visit well.wvu.edu



High

Stress Level

Low

WELLWVU

NOW LEASING

BENT TREE COURT APARTMENTS

304-296-3606

1, 2 & 3 Bedroom Units

Call 304-296-3606

Text Us 681-214-1460

The DA Podcasts

Every Tuesday, Residence Hall Coordinators Angela Delfine and Patrick O'Donnell host Towers Talk, a podcast by and for Lyon and Braxton Towers. Each week, they'll bring you an interview with a different member of the WVU community to help you get adjusted to your new campus home!

Wellbeing Wednesdays is a weekly podcast exploring what wellbeing means at West Virginia University. Listen to get to know more about the folks doing work on the ground at the university in addition to some light-hearted fun as we take a look at wellbeing in popular culture.

Available EVERY Wednesday at https://www.thedaonline.com/wellbeing_wednesdays and on all major podcasting networks

Don't miss an episode podcast available at thedaonline.com/podcasts

It's Your Turn to Be Heard

U92 the MOOSE 2020 LISTENER SURVEY

Help Us Decide Our Future Programming!

www.u92themoose.com

the best rental properties around campus | Search

Tired of searching for the perfect home?

Finding the best rentals around town can be SO EASY!

Just visit us online at thedaonline.com, and click on our housing section!

THE DA WVU's INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Rental Properties | Classifieds Apartment Search | Housing Tips

THE DA Classifieds

304-293-4141
da-classifieds@mail.wvu.edu
284 Prospect St., Morgantown, WV
Monday-Friday 8:45 am - 4:45 pm

SELL • BUY • RENT • JOBS ⟶ *GET RESULTS!*

Classified liner ads
(20 words or fewer)
1 edition $9
2 editions $16
3 editions $21
4+ editions $6 per day

Additional charges per day
Boxed ad $3; All letters bold $3;
More than 20 words $.20 per word

Classified display rates per day
1x2 $35
1x3 $53
1x4 $70
1x5 $85
1x6 $105

ADS MUST BE PREPAID

Deadlines
Noon on Wednesday for Thursday paper
Noon on Friday for Monday paper
All liner ads are included on thedaonline.com!

PERSONALS

PROFESSIONAL MASSEUSE WANTED Call (724) 223-0939 anytime.

HELP WANTED

LPN ($22/HR + BENEFITS) to care for pleasant disabled person in his home in Morgantown. 3 12-hour shifts/week. Text resume or call: 304-685-4736.

STUDENT ASSISTANT 15-20hrs/week $11/hr. Organizing, cleaning, filing and Microsoft Office skills needed. Text resume to 304-685-4736.

CAREGIVER $13/hr. full/part time for pleasant disabled young person 7 p.m. – 7 a.m. to provide adult daily living skills. Position will provide excellent experience for any social science or medical field student. Call or text resume to 304-685-4736.

FURNISHED APARTMENTS

We have available 1, 2 & 3 BR furnished apartments. They are located on Weaver & Willey St. Off-street parking and laundry facilities included. Phone: 304-290-7368 (no texts) or 304-377-1570.

METRO PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

LARGEST & FINEST SELECTION OF APARTMENTS AND TOWNHOMES!
1, 2 & 3 BEDROOM
FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED

STUDENT 304-413-0900 & NON-STUDENT 304-598-9001

www.liveatmetro.com

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

ROLLING BACK PRICES TO 1960!227 Jones Ave. Apt.#6, 3BD, one full bath + loft + furnished living room + free parking. $295/each + utilities. Call 304-685-3457. Only one left. Will rent one to four.

Aerostar Apartments

Now Leasing For May
Downtown & Evansdale

RATES START AT $330.00 PER PERSON

- 1, 2 & 3BRs Available
- Furnished/Unfurnished Options
- Washer/Dryer Options
- Pet Friendly
- FREE PARKING!
- 24 Hour Emergency Maintenance

CALL TODAY!

Our convenient locations put you exactly where you want to be...

Call Today 304-598-3300

aerostar@czsproperties.com

Monday - Friday 8am-5pm

RENTAL SEASON IS HERE Don't miss out rental season is here advertise your apartments in The DA. 304-293-4141.

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

NOW RENTING 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 BR Apartments on Prospect and Spruce for 2020-2021. Contact Nick: 304-292-1792

CHATEAU ROYALE

Renting for 2020
Eff. 1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms
One Bedroom as low as $460
Two Bedrooms as low as $385 per person
Three Bedrooms as low as $360 per person

- Pets Welcome
- 24 Hour Emergency Maintenance
- Next to Football Stadium & Hospital
- State of the Art Fitness Center
- Mountain Line Bus Every 15 Minutes

Office Hours
Monday - Friday 8am-5pm
Saturday 10am-4pm
Sunday 12pm-4pm

Appointments Available

304-599-7474

Morgantown's Most Luxurious Living Community

www.chateauroyale apartments.com

PROSPECT and PRICE Creative
304-293-4141

We're Prospect and Price Creative, a WVU student-run creative services agency, and we're here to build relationships between local businesses and the place we call home.

SMITH RENTALS, LLC

304-676-0930

- Houses
- 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartments

$500 - $900 per month

Check out:
www.smithrentalsllc.com

Stream your favorite movies, TV shows, and Amazon Originals.

Start your 6-month trial,
no cost to you

prime student

amazon.com/WestVirginiaU