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WVU's Independent Student Newspaper THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2020 www.thedaonline.com

WVUp All Night continues despite COVID-19

PHOTO BY LOGAN ADAMS

Groups of students line up to enter Hatfields for food at WVUp All Night on Aug. 29.

BY CRAIG WEIMER
ASSISTANT CULTURE EDITOR

For the 24th year in a row, WVU has hosted WVUp All Night free of charge to its students, and the crowds are still large — even during a pandemic.

"On a regular weekend, pre-COVID-19, we would see about 2,500 students," said Kristie Stewart-Gale, marketing and advertising manager for WVU Arts and Entertainment. "Our first weekend was last weekend, and of course we didn't have everyone back on campus, but we served approximately 1,800 students."

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, medium-sized, in-person gatherings that are adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least six feet apart and have attendees coming from outside the local area are considered 'higher risk.'

According to Stewart-Gale, WVU had designed the event to mitigate this risk.

"Those 1,800 people weren't just in the Mountainlair," Stewart-Gale said. "They weren't there at the same time; that's across that five-hour period. A lot of those are online, a lot of them are at Evansdale and if you're in the building and you're watching what's happening, that's not 1,800 people sitting down together doing something; that's 1,800 people passing through the building."

Stewart-Gale said that keeping the crowds low as people pass through the Mountainlair is not the responsibility of WVUp All Night, but rather the Mountainlair itself.

"We, as a unit, don't control the limit on folks in the building. We [WVUp All Night] are controlling limits on our spaces, where our events are," she said. "If you're looking at the reservations, you'll notice, for instance, the crafts — you can only have 25 people per hour, so you have to make that reservation."

University President E. Gordon Gee, who attended WVUp All Night last weekend, said he has no COVID-19 fears for himself, despite being in a higher-risk age group.

"We have planned for it [WVUp All Night], and I'm sort of doing the same thing for myself," Gee told the Daily Athenaeum. "I'm keeping myself socially distanced, you know. I'm wearing my mask, but I have a lot of faith in our students."

Office of Student Conduct using 'heightened lens' this semester

BY DUNCAN SLADE
PHOTO EDITOR

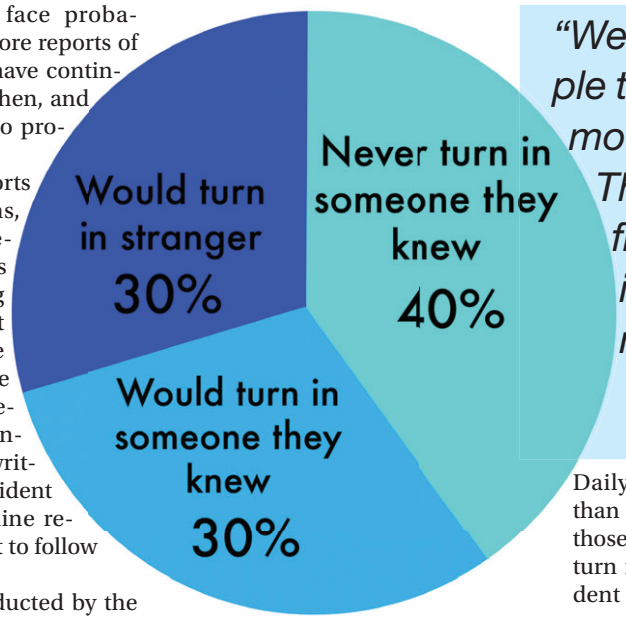
Every semester, the WVU Office of Student Conduct handles a variety of violations including alcohol use, cheating and sexual assault.

This semester, however, the office is dealing with new violations like students participating in social gatherings, not quarantining and not wearing masks.

"We look at [COVID-19 violations] with a little bit of a heightened lens because we're in a pandemic," said Executive Director for Student Conduct Carrie Showalter.

The Office of Student Conduct reported last week that 17 students were on probation, and that it was processing charges for 15 additional students that could face probation. Showalter said more reports of COVID-19 violations have continued to come in since then, and her office is working to process them.

Showalter said reports come in many forms, including police reports and submissions through a reporting form on the Student Conduct website. She said police reports are easy to work with because they usually include names and a written account of the incident while anonymous online reports are more difficult to follow up on.



"We want to encourage people to report, and if it's anonymous, we will still look into it. The reports are everything from someone's not wearing a mask [to] someone's not quarantining."
-Carrie Showalter, Executive Director for Student Conduct

An online poll conducted by the Daily Athenaeum received more than 100 responses. Close to 40% of those surveyed said they would never turn in someone they knew to Student Conduct, while 30% said they would turn in someone they knew. The final 30% said they would turn in a stranger who repeatedly violated COVID-19 guidelines.

"We want to encourage people to report, and if it's anonymous, we will still look into it," Showalter said. "The reports are everything from someone's not wearing a mask [to] someone's not quarantining. Obviously, the more serious ones are failure to isolate... but a lot of the reports we're getting are related to social gatherings."

See **Heightened** page 3

WEEKEND WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY 09/04
PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH 78° - LOW 54°

SATURDAY 09/05
SUNNY
HIGH 78° - LOW 59°

SUNDAY 09/06
SUNNY
HIGH 82° - LOW 64°

CRIME REPORT

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

AUG. 30
12:11 a.m. | **Closed - Resolved**
Spruce St.
Party/Gathering.

AUG. 30
1:20 p.m. | **Closed - Resolved**
WVU University Park Apts.
Party/Gathering.

AUG. 30
1:38 p.m. | **Closed - Resolved**
Sigma Chi Fraternity
Party/Gathering.

AUG. 30
1:48 p.m. | **Clear by Warning**
Theta Chi Fraternity
Party/Gathering.

AUG. 30
1:53 p.m. | **Clear by Warning**
Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Party/Gathering.

AUG. 30
5:22 p.m. | **Closed - Resolved**
Belmar Ave.
Party/Gathering.

AUG. 30
9:32 p.m. | **Closed - Resolved**
WVU Stadium
Open door.

AUG. 30
9:56 p.m. | **Clear by Warning**
University Ave./College Ave.
Road rage.

AUG. 31
10:46 p.m. | **Clear by Warning**
Willey St./University Ave.
Traffic stop.

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SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENTS

dailyathenaeum

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Presented by THE DA

Join The DA for WVU Trivia • September 7 at 6 p.m.

Zoom
https://wvu.zoom.us/j/93045103763?pwd=dkNOYkJIUHVjeTVHMUJEZE8xSWJIdz09

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

GRADUATE ASSISTANT
Rita Okonji

Editor:
Gabriella Brown
gb0036@mix.wvu.edu

NEWS

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

WVU alumna 'Space Gal' stars in Netflix show

BY HALEH AMANIEH
STAFF WRITER

COURTESY OF EMILY CALANDRELLI

"Emily's Wonder Lab" aims to make STEAM fun with activities, demonstrations and at-home experiments, according to Netflix.

West Virginia University alumna Emily Calandrelli has made it big with her new Netflix show, 'Emily's Wonder Lab.'

In the show, Calandrelli and a group of kids do crazy and creative science experiments together. Each episode has a larger-than-life science experiment, such as a whole pool of slime that kids can swim in and one home-friendly experiment.

"My favorite part was filming," Calandrelli said. "I loved interacting with the kids and seeing their genuine excitement for the stuff we were doing in my lab."

Calandrelli's new show premiered on Netflix on Aug. 25, but her journey to fame started in West Virginia.

"West Virginia shaped my career by launching my career," Calandrelli said.

Calandrelli said her experiences in her home state of West Virginia and at WVU are the reasons why she has pursued a career in science communication.

Calandrelli said that being from West Virginia, where climate change is seldom accepted or discussed, has taught her to be more empathetic about the way she talks about science.

"I never want to make anyone feel stupid or embarrassed for not knowing something," Calandrelli said. "I think it's important that we are always encouraging questions and curiosity."

Her academic pursuit of science started with a bachelor's degree in mechanical and aerospace engineering from WVU, but she has not limited herself to that field. Calandrelli has also presented on the importance of science in TEDx and has written children's books about a girl from West Virginia who loves all things science.

While at WVU, she visited K-12 schools and talked to kids about pursuing a career in engineering.

"Speaking to kids about science and technology has always been something I've enjoyed doing, and I suppose now I've found a way to make a career out of it," Calandrelli said.

Her appearance on Netflix is not Calandrelli's first time in front of a camera. She began hosting 'Xploration Outer Space' on Fox in 2014 and has made appearances on 'Bill Nye Saves the World.'

The reason she became interested in space exploration is simple.

"I chose aerospace engineering because I wanted to fly on the Vomit Comet," Calandrelli said.

WVU's Microgravity Research Team frequently gets accepted to fly at NASA. Calandrelli's favorite memory from her time at WVU is getting to travel to NASA's Jonson Space Center and flying on the Vomit Comet with friends from the University.

After receiving her bachelor's degree at WVU, Calandrelli continued her education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). That is where she became more interested in the communication side of science after getting a master's degree in Technology and Public Policy and in Aeronautics and Astronautics.

"I learned how to think about science technology from many other angles," Calandrelli said. "Is it safe? Is it moral? Who is it designed to help? Should the government be involved? And this framework of thinking helped launch my career in [science communication]."

Heightened

Continued from page 1

Jaron Bragg, president of the WVU chapter of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and student body vice president, said his fraternity was hosting a few guests in its chapter house on Aug. 17. He estimated the crowd was around 35 people, and noted that the majority of the people there lived at the fraternity house.

Bragg said University Police arrived and issued a warning. He said he shut off the music and sent guests home, but was surprised to wake up the next day with an email from Student Conduct in his inbox.

"[The University Police report] said like 45 to 55 people, and that just wasn't true," Bragg said. "Then the student conduct meeting happened and they were very polite, very nice. I explained to them the situation; it was our first student conduct hearing as an organization, I guess that's pretty rare for a fraternity."

Bragg left that meeting with a warning for his chapter and said he feels Greek Life is targeted for enforcement by the University.

"I find it, the hypocrisy of having Up All Night on weekends with hundreds of people all around and then you want to crack down on a 35-person gathering in a 25-person house," Bragg said. "That just doesn't sit right with me."

Showalter said Greek Life has been responsible for a "fair amount" of social gathering reports, but that a number of social gatherings have been reported in the Sunnyside area.

"The reports we get about Greek Life are disproportionate to the number of students that are in Greek Life," she said. "I don't think it's because there's an issue with Greek Life. I just think anytime you've got students that are in large groups it can lead to misconduct."

Director of Greek Life Matthew Richardson works closely with the Office of Student Conduct on violations in the Greek community. He said students will no longer be protected by their organization for individual violations like in previous years.

"You're going to be held accountable as a student for your actions and you're not going to be able to hide behind the organization's charter as the ultimate punishment," Richardson said. "That's not where we're at. We're trying to build a sense of community here and get students to be in line with the idea that they can help stop the spread."

He said that while most students are following the guidelines, the problem is with the students that don't. Richardson said the University has to rise to meet the challenge presented by the latter group.

Showalter emphasized that every student conduct violation is different and there isn't a one-size fits all approach. She said each report is handled on the basis of the facts and students are given the opportunity to share additional information.

"We really make every effort to be fair," she said.

Showalter said students who refuse to isolate themselves or participate in contact-tracing after testing positive could be considered for suspension or expulsion. Students who have a repeated history of violating COVID-19 guidelines could face the same consequences. Before a student is suspended or expelled, they would go through a hearing with an independent adjudicator.

While students have not outright refused to comply with a quarantine, Showalter said students have been out at the Mountainlair or getting something to eat when they're supposed to be in a quarantine because of exposure to COVID-19.

"We always look at it from 'Is this a safety risk to the University?'" Showalter said. "If someone's behaving in a way that puts others at risk... we would want to do what we could to stop that risk."

Freshmen students get involved while following campus guidelines

BY CHRISTINA RUFO
CORRESPONDENT

PHOTO VIA WVU

Students walk on the downtown campus of West Virginia University with Woodburn in the background on a fall day in Morgantown.

As WVU students settle back into campus life for fall semester, incoming freshmen face new challenges while trying to enjoy student life.

"WVU has done a pretty good job creating student activities and giving particularly freshman a good way to meet new people and enjoy activities that they like," said Ethan Lituchy, a freshman interactive design for media student.

Because most upperclassmen are off campus and COVID-19 is still a great concern for students' wellness and safety, many club and intramural sports have either been postponed or moved online.

Depending on where students are residing, it can affect how accessible some student activities are. WVUp All Night is held on both the downtown and Evansdale campuses, but a majority of outdoor events take place on the Evansdale intramural fields.

"I feel since I live by the green, it's not hard to meet new people or hangout because there's always kickball or other games going on," said Dalynn Minor, a freshman graphic design student. "If I lived farther away, I think it'd be harder because of social distancing rules."

The University has initiated events through its Refresh program, which keeps an updated schedule of all activities throughout the coming weeks. Such events include kayaking, movies on at the Mountainlair Green, climbing courses, outdoor group exercise classes and WVUp All Night.

Although the staff has worked to help students adjust to the new normal, some students feel that it is harder to make friends in class due to the mask mandate.

"In some classes, (it's) not a hassle, but in language courses it makes it super hard to understand anyone because of everyone's accents and muffled sound under the mask," Minor said.

Lituchy said wearing masks in the classroom affects the group atmosphere and makes it difficult to interact with people, especially when trying to communicate with the person next to him.

The University has also held club fairs and webinars online via Zoom as an additional way to accommodate the students.

"I think with the virtual meetings, the idea of it being an online event makes it seem less important than in-person activities and meetings," Lituchy said. "I think it's sort of harder to do Zoom meetings, however, it's definitely possible and you really just have to incorporate it into your schedule and take it seriously as if it was an in-person event."

Elizabeth Carey, president of women's ultimate frisbee at WVU, loves being a part of the team and coordinates Zoom meetings and organizes safe practices for her fellow members.

Although fall activities will not be run the way anyone had originally planned, Carey said that when it comes to coordinating events, they are doing everything they can to get students involved while following COVID-19 guidelines.

Lauryn Baker, a freshman pre-nursing student, agrees attending club meetings via Zoom can be tricky when students also need to keep up with their in-person class schedule as well as online lectures.

Baker and Minor both said having notifications sent via Remind or other text messaging system may be a better way to keep students in-the-know, since a steady stream of emails are sent out by the University and professors on a daily basis, leading to an overwhelming inbox.

"Please come out to functions that the university coordinates such as club fairs, Up All Night, etc," Carey said. "All of those things are University-sanctioned, meaning they will follow COVID guidelines and be safe. They are all great opportunities to meet new people and stay safe and clean."

Country Roads Nutrition brings healthy alternatives to Westover

BY SADAF NIKZAD
CORRESPONDENT

PHOTO BY DAVID MALECKI

Two workers tend to customers at Country Roads Nutrition.

WVU alumna Marlesa Tennant is bringing a health alternative to the Westover community.

"I've always wanted to be my own business owner ever since I was little," Tennant, owner of the new restaurant Country Roads Nutrition in Westover, said.

Country Roads Nutrition has brought a different meal option to the area, offering plant-based meal replacement shakes that are gluten-free, dairy-free and vegan friendly. Tennant said it is an alternative for those who may have dietary restrictions that cause a struggle at other restaurants.

"We have different products that we can [use to] help people meet their health goals," Tennant said. "Whether you're trying to lose weight or you just want to feel better overall, we have something to help everybody."

Country Roads Nutrition offers a variety of drinks and snacks, as well as a three-step meal. The three-step meal starts with a shot of mango aloe, which acts as a digestive aid and a natural sweetener.

Next, customers drink herbal tea, which is sweetened with the mango aloe. These teas are thermogenic, which means when consumed, it raises body temperature by one degree. The teas are energizing and hydrating, and can burn 80 calories.

The final step is the meal replacement protein shake. Country Roads Nutrition offers 163 flavors, so there's something for everyone. The shakes max out at 250 calories but are the equivalent of a 1,500 calorie meal.

Prior to opening her business, Tennant graduated WVU in 2015 with a degree in biology.

"I graduated from WVU and I had a little girl, so that put a damper on my dental school plans," Tennant said. "I started looking for other jobs when I found one at a nutrition club."

Tennant said she loved the environment and atmosphere of the nutrition club, so she took what she learned there and duplicated it to open her own club.

Tennant is also using what she learned at WVU from taking computer and nutrition courses to run her business successfully.

"There's really nothing on this side of town to compare Country Roads Nutrition to," Tennant said.

Campus trigger for shutdown relies on local, state guidelines

BY CRYSTAL CHECK
CORRESPONDENT

While some universities have set guidelines as to what would trigger a campus-wide shutdown, West Virginia University is focusing on state and local statistics to determine whether on-campus courses are safe to continue.

WVU spokesperson April Kaull said positive tests, county positivity rates, county rate of transmission, and hospitalizations and capacity are all being considered by the University to decide whether or not to keep the campus open.

Although WVU has been in contact with local and state health departments for guidance on best practices, it is ultimately up to the University to decide to revert to fully remote learning.

Jeffery Coben, dean of the school of public health at WVU, said the University is focusing on new cases, rather than overall cases.

"We're looking at a lot of different things," Coben said. "The short answer is, there is not a specific line in the sand."

In the case of a death on campus related to COVID-19, Kaull said the University would consider a combination of factors in making any determination regarding a shift from in-person to online classes.

"It would be a tragedy we hope we never have to face," Kaull said. "That is why we are stressing repeatedly the importance of every individual following all safety protocols and guidelines to keep our community safe."

In addition to testing all faculty and students before the semester started, WVU has implemented masking and social distancing guidelines. In addition, it has instrumented a mandatory daily wellness check, which is delivered to each student and faculty member's emails each morning.

Despite the precautions taken to avoid spread, some students are skeptical about how effective it will be.

"Reopening dorms, I think, was probably the worst idea," said Jessica Cheuvront, a junior criminology student. "If one person gets it, and they have a roommate, their roommates already been exposed, so now their roommate is also in quarantine for two weeks."

Moving forward with the year, Cheuvront said she believes the school needs to have a set percentage of cases among students that would be the indicator of another campus shutdown.

Editor:
Raeanne Beckner
rmb0035@mix.wvu.edu

CULTURE

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

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance offers assistance to WVU students in need

BY TRISTAN MOORE
CORRESPONDENT

With COVID-19 still in full swing, human connection can feel elusive.

Sade Miller, a junior social work student, has recently organized a group to help those whose mood disorders may have worsened during COVID-19. Miller herself suffers from a mood disorder, and is the lead facilitator of the WVU Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance.

"We just talk; we introduce ourselves and what we personally go through, and then we just create conversation," Miller said.

The goal of the WVU DBSA, one of more than 700 similar groups across the country, is to "improve the lives of people living with mood disorders."

The WVU DBSA offers an opportunity for students with mood disorders to relate their experiences to those who have been in similar situations, which is one of the perks of the group, according to Miller.

"A lot of us who are facilitators of this group, we've been in a lot of sticky situations," she said.

In an effort to maintain safe social distancing guidelines, the new group has taken to Zoom to conduct its meetings and conversations, which are held at 8:30 p.m. every other Wednesday.

"Right now, we're just facing Zoom challenges," Miller said. "We've had a lot of people interested, just not a lot of participators."

Miller believes the novelty of her group, as well as "Zoom burn-out," may be contributing to low attendance so far. She is optimistic, however, that the group's popularity will swell.

To assist with outreach, Miller says Fanica Payne, a Carruth Center substance use disorder specialist, is helping spread the word.

For those looking for "a place to talk," Miller said that WVU DBSA is well-equipped with like-minded peers to assist in navigating some of the unique pit falls college life throws those suffering from a mood disorder.

"I just want to make it known that kids who are going through this now, you're not alone; we've been there," she said.

PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

Sade Miller, a facilitator with West Virginia University's Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, in front of E. Moore Hall on Aug. 27.

Riding the Mountain Line: Buses explained for PRT lovers

BY LARA BONATESTA
CORRESPONDENT

In the absence of a running PRT, students who need to travel between campuses for class are now relying on buses to get them from place to place.

Clement Solomon, director of WVU's Department of Transportation and Parking, said increased caution due to COVID-19 was the main reasoning behind decisions on campus transportation this semester.

"We're being conscious and cautious, that's kind of how I view this," he said. "You know, we're conscious of the surroundings, of the situation and we're taking a cautious approach to the wellness and the wellbeing of our WVU community."

Solomon said the buses would be running at reduced capacity in order to follow social distancing protocols. On the standard 56-seat coach buses, 14 seats are open while the rest of the seats are marked as unavailable.

Buses will be running on the same hours the PRT typically runs: 6:30 a.m. to 10:15 p.m. on weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays. In addition to keeping the same hours, WVU also aims to keep the buses running at a similar frequency to the PRT: on loops running approximately every five to seven minutes.

PHOTO BY RYLAN NEMESH

A student walks down the aisle to find a seat on the bus.

PHOTO BY RYLAN NEMESH

A student boards the bus on Aug. 28.

PHOTO BY RYLAN NEMESH

Passengers file into the bus.

In order to make this possible, transportation is also operating with an additional 35 to 40 buses this semester.

The bus routes this fall include the Country Roads Loop, the Mountaineer Loop, the Health Sciences Express and the Coliseum Shuttle Service.

The Country Roads Loop takes about 12 minutes and runs continuously from Falling Run Road to Mountaineer Station, with a stop at Oakland Street.

The Mountaineer Loop takes about 10 minutes and runs from Area 8 of Beechurst Avenue (near the Beechurst PRT station) and stops at the intersection near the Brooks Hall ramp, thens runs to Evansdale Crossing.

The Health Sciences Express runs from Mountaineer Station to Evansdale Crossing.

The Coliseum shuttle service runs continuously from the Coliseum to Evansdale Crossing from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.

PHOTO BY RYLAN NEMESH

Students wait for the bus to go downtown on the corner of Oakland Street and University Avenue.

In addition to these bus routes, the Mountain Line Transit Authority also runs routes including the Blue and Gold route and the Beechurst Express, which help connect the downtown and Evansdale campuses.

Expected wait times for the buses range from 20 to 30 minutes and may increase during times of heavy traffic, according to the WVU Transportation and Parking website.

Evan Pyles, a freshman business student, described his experience with waiting for the buses.

"I waited in one spot for about a half an hour once, but I switched up spots and started going to a different bus stop that's not in front of Towers," he said. "It's the one next to the McDonald's near Towers, and I got on, like straight on, pretty much."

OPINION

Staff Contributions
danewsroom@mail.wvu.edu

Op-Ed: Students need to acknowledge their own hypocrisy during pandemic

SUBMITTED BY DAVID LAUB

PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

David Laub is a graduate student at West Virginia University.

I am ashamed.

On Tuesday, I opened Snapchat to story after story of people in line downtown at the bars' reopening. This is after WVUToday just published data on Monday showing almost 500 students are in quarantine both on- and off-campus. It seems that, no matter what happens to our fellow students and community members, we will not be deterred from partying. Frankly, it's embarrassing. I have never before in my life been ashamed to be a Mountaineer, but I am now.

As of Tuesday, the United States is far and away the world leader in COVID-19 cases with 5,936,572, per the World Health Organization. They also estimate that we are coming very near 200,000 deaths. In fact, it is even possible that these numbers are vastly deflated, as our rate of new cases per day has very conspicuously gone down immediately beginning when the White House took control of COVID-19 data away from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on July 15.

So, in the face of a mismanaged crisis, which West Virginians are unfortunately all too accustomed to from our own local governments, where does that leave us?

To hijack the messaging of the University, we truly did have the opportunity to Go First. We could have, on a large scale, avoided bars. We could have avoided restaurants, opting for delivery, takeout or outdoor dining instead. We could have walked past our neighborhood house parties. We could have been an example for universities and communities across the nation. We could have gone first. Instead, largely in part due to our own irresponsibility, our own carelessness and our own lack of regard for others, we haven't.

Instead, I see the same people on Snapchat and Instagram going out week after week. The same house on my street has a party every other night I walk home. We're sharing drinks and beer bongs and vape pens, not wearing our masks on campus and ignoring professors who tell us to keep them on.

I'll be honest, there is nothing more I want at this point than to be able to go into Gene's or Apothecary or Back Door. I would kill to waste $50 on a bar tab and forget my card and have to come back the next day whenever they open and deal with the laughs of whoever's manning the bar when I go.

I want that as much as you do. Truly.

But by opting to do that now rather than waiting until we get a vaccine, think of how stupid we look. We want to be here, right? We want to be on campus. All we talk about is how much we want to tailgate and have football games back, but we're the ones making sure that doesn't happen. We can't have those things if the University opts to send us home in the face of potential case spikes. We are the ones spreading COVID-19 and forcing the University into making decisions it doesn't want to have to make.

> *"I know some of us think we shouldn't be here anyway, so this is a way to stick it to President Gee. Others think, 'What the hell, we're going to be sent home anyway, might as well live it up.' And you know, maybe at another time and in another place you'd be right. But right now, you're not."*
>
> *-David Laub, WVU Graduate Student*

I know some of us think we shouldn't be here anyway, so this is a way to stick it to President Gee. Others think, "What the hell, we're going to be sent home anyway, might as well live it up." And you know, maybe at another time and in another place you'd be right. But right now, you're not. I don't care what your reasoning is for going out and throwing caution to the wind, but it's wrong.

People are dying across the world, across the country, across the state and in Morgantown. I've heard people say, "Well the mortality rate is only 2%, and we can't hide forever!" That would be 600 people of our student population. So, we're okay with 600 people dying just because it might not be you or me or your roommate?

Again, I'm ashamed. It hurts me to see a university and student body I love so much face possibly its greatest ever challenge with apathy and a blatant disregard for human life.

I've done a lot of recruiting for WVU, and I always tell prospective students the best parts about going to school here are how much we care about one another and how proud we are of being Mountaineers.

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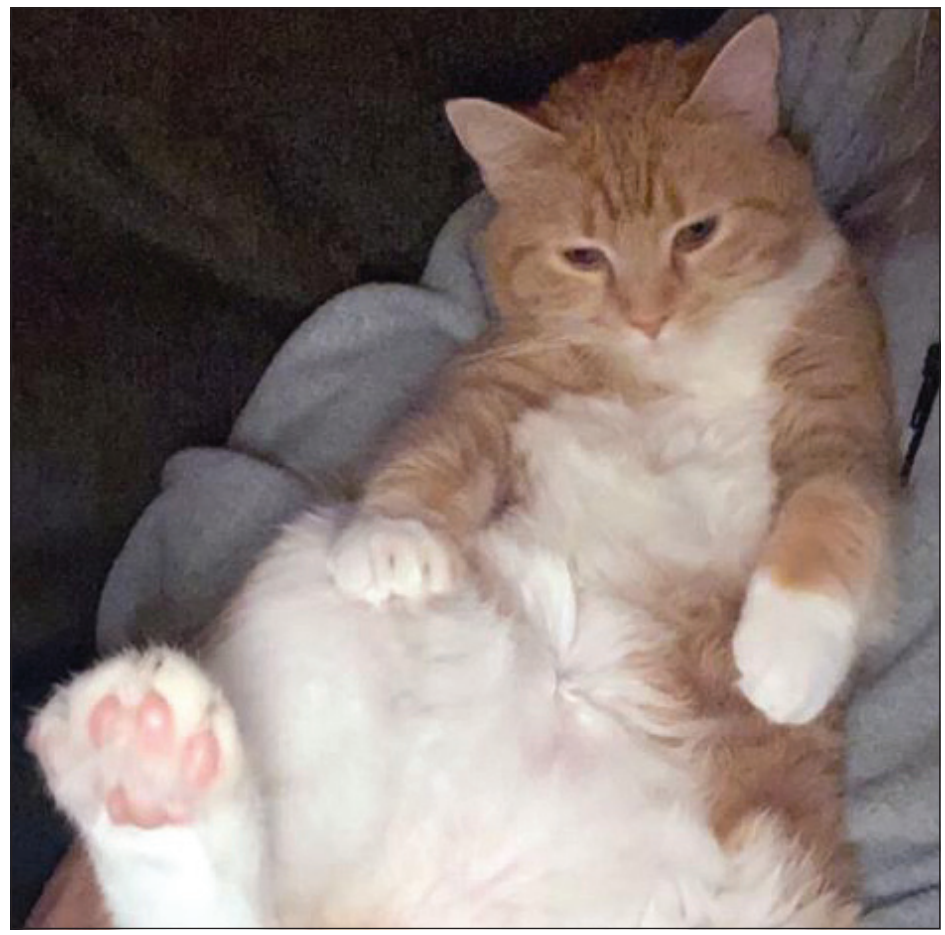
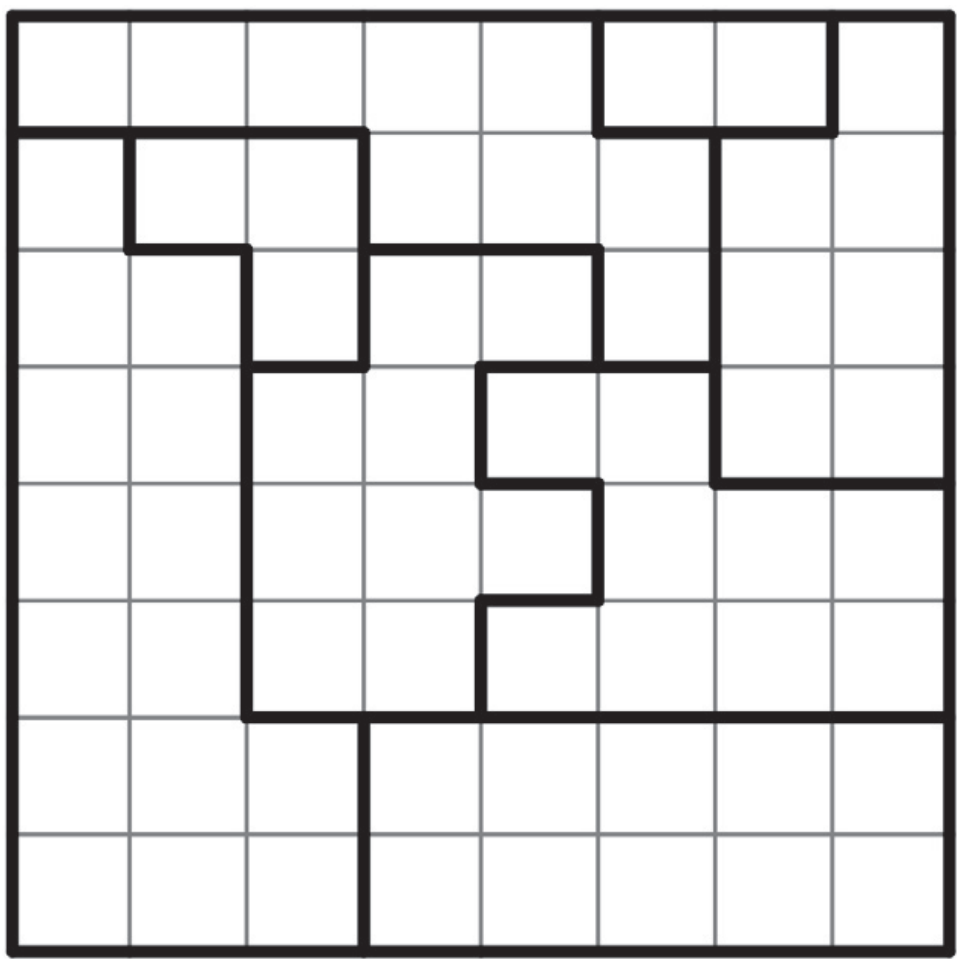


PHOTO SUBMITTED BY CASSIE KEITER

This is Chrysanthemum, a three-year-old cat. She is a woman of many talents and likes to adventure outside and climb her owner's brick wall while enjoying the great Morgantown views. Chrysanthemum's tricks include killing bugs and speaking on command.

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

TWO NOT TOUCH



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IN THESE PUZZLES, EACH ROW, COLUMN AND BOLDED REGION MUST CONTAIN EXACTLY TWO STARS. THE STARS CAN'T TOUCH EACH OTHER, NOT EVEN DIAGONALLY. SO WHEN YOU PLACE A STAR, YOU CAN ELIMINATE ALL THE SQUARES THAT IMMEDIATELY SURROUND IT, AND WHEN YOU PLACE THE SECOND STAR IN A ROW, COLUMN, OR BOLDED REGION YOU CAN ELIMINATE ALL THE REMAINING CELLS IN THAT GROUPING AS WELL.

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SUDOKU

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

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

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Editor:
Matthew Digby
mmd003@mix.wvu.edu

SPORTS

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

Simmons and Stills see more confidence from Brown in year two

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

Neal Brown enters his second season with the Mountaineers in 2020.

PHOTO BY JAMES NABLE

Defensive tackle Darius Stills is one of the most senior members of the WVU defense entering 2020.

PHOTO BY DUNCAN SLADE

Wide receiver T.J. Simmons enters his redshirt senior season with the Mountaineers in 2020.

The 2020 college football season will be weirder than most seasons with limited fans in the stands, the Big Ten and Pac-12 not playing and many other conferences canceling games. However, West Virginia's football season is still on track to begin in September.

Despite all the uncertainty, senior wide receiver T.J. Simmons and senior defensive lineman Darius Stills see more confidence from head coach Neal Brown at the helm for year two.

"Last year, there were new schemes to learn and the coaches couldn't focus on the mental aspect of playing," Stills said. "Coaches now can focus on the mental part of the game when it comes to small things that have a big effect."

Simmons has seen things running a lot smoother under Brown in his second year when it comes to practicing and setting up the offense.

"The offensive setup is running a lot smoother," Simmons said. "Last year, guys were trying to learn how to practice under Coach Brown, and I think that first year with him has gotten us a lot more experience."

Before the Mountaineers could begin practicing, the team needed to adapt to the current situation with the COVID-19 pandemic. Like many others in the United States, WVU football utilized Zoom to prepare for the upcoming season.

"During COVID-19, we had a lot of online meetings, so when we got back to practice, almost everyone knew what to do," Simmons said. "That's a complete 360 from last year because everyone was uncertain with coaching, but now with more people under coach Brown, we know what to do."

After the Big Ten and Pac-12 canceled their college football seasons, the Big 12 announced that it would continue with its season. Stills hasn't had time to look outside of the Big 12 or WVU football because he is too focused on the year ahead.

"I'm focused on what we have going on in this building," Stills said. "I haven't been focused on any other school because it doesn't necessarily apply to me, so I've only paid attention to WVU football and the Big 12."

President Gee optimistic about season, young West Virginia football team

BY CHARLES MONTGOMERY
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Earlier in the summer, as the Big Ten, Pac 12 and many other conferences were canceling their college football seasons for the fall, the Big 12, ACC and SEC remained stout in their plans to move on with the 2020 season.

Even with two of the five Power Five conferences canceling, West Virginia University President E. Gordon Gee thinks the Big 12 handled the situation well amidst the pandemic.

“It’s a crazy time,” Gee told the Daily Athenaeum. "The Big 12 made decisions based on health protocols, and I think we've made the right choice.”

Recent reports have indicated that the Big Ten has potentially looked into starting the season this fall in October. However, no concrete evidence has come out of these reports, while the other Power Five conferences are less than two weeks away from beginning their seasons.

"College football and mainly college sports are a spiritual thing, and they add to our country's positive things," Gee said. “During this time, I think we need some positivity like college football.”

Even with a shortened season and fewer teams playing, President Gee sees positivity in a season like the one in 2020 for the Mountaineers.

“We’re at least two leagues closer to the national championship,” Gee said. “We have a very young team, but I have great confidence in our football coach, and I think they’re going to surprise a lot of people this year.”

The Big 12 conference is playing a 10-game schedule with one non-conference opponent to open the season. The SEC is playing a 10-game season, but only conference opponents. With the addition of Notre Dame, the ACC will be playing an 11-game season with one non-conference opponent and 10 conference opponents for each team.

The West Virginia football season kicks off on Sep. 12 in Morgantown against Eastern Kentucky. The game will start at noon and be televised on FS1.

STAFF PHOTO

WVU President E. Gordon Gee: “During this time, I think we need some positivity like college football.”

Move to WVU, Morgantown a ‘sign of life’ for new diving coach Karla Helder

BY ETHAN BOCK
CORRESPONDENT

In late August, West Virginia University’s swimming and diving coach, Vic Riggs, announced the hiring of Karla Helder to take over the vacant diving head coach position.

The 62-year-old coach has been coaching diving since she was 20, most notably coaching at San Jose State, the University of Buffalo and the University of California-Davis. While at San Jose State, Helder was also the assistant diving coach and development coach for the Santa Clara Diving Club.

Helder enjoys observing the development of her divers, something she has seen much of during her coaching career. She says it is one of her prime motivators.

“Watching the success that athletes have when that light bulb goes on when they get it,” Helder said. “Something that they’ve strived for either a couple of weeks, or a longer period of time, but when they get it, it’s just the experience of watching that success just moves me.”

PHOTO BY DOUGLAS LEVERE/UNIVERSITY OF BUFFALO

Karla Helder, pictured at the University of Buffalo, has coached numerous successful divers during her coaching career.

Helder has been all around the world her entire life and career. From her dad being in the Air Force to moving to California then to New York and now to West Virginia, she has seen it all.

The first impressions and sights of Morgantown for Helder were much different from her previous job.

“I got here on Monday [Aug. 24], and just the rain was amazing to stand in the middle of it,” Helder said. “California hasn’t seen rain in a while. Also, everything was green. Green means go, it’s a sign of life. For me, it’s a sign of getting back on my feet.”

Helder has not spoken with the team yet due to COVID-19 restrictions, but she still wants the team to understand what she brings as a coach.

“They are going to see a pretty seamless transition in a foundation and a systematic approach to diving,” Helder said. “I enjoy coaching kids that enjoy having fun. My hopes are that I can find that fine line between challenging them, but yet developing the fun part of dieting that allows them to move forward into later into their life while their bodies are rapidly changing.”

Helder, a two-time NCAA Division II National Diving Coach of the Year, has coached a lot of successful divers in her career.

At UC Davis, she coached four national champions and 36 All-Americans.

During her stint at the University of Buffalo, Helder coached 13 regional qualifying divers in her 12 years with the program. She also coached two qualified divers at the NCAA championship while with the Bulls. Helder also had the opportunity of taking a diver to Olympic trials at Buffalo.

Most recently at San Jose State, Helder led every diver she coached to personal best times on the 1-meter and 3-meter springboards.

West Virginia volleyball program ready for unprecedented conference-only season

BY MATTHEW DIGBY
SPORTS EDITOR

For much of the summer, it was questionable as to how a fall sports season could possibly look. Now, the Big 12 Conference has officially announced that fall sports are good to move forward, which includes volleyball.

Even with a summer full of more questions than answers, the West Virginia University volleyball team still went ahead with preparing for a season.

"It wasn't the typical summer," WVU head volleyball coach Reed Sunahara said. "Normally our kids are back in summer school, but this year it wasn't the case. They were home."

Even with the team being home, there were still expectations for all the players to stay conditioned and do workouts to make sure they would be prepared when the team returned to campus. Now that student-athletes are all back, Sunahara gives a lot of credit to his coaching staff for getting his players ready.

"Our strength coach, Kaitlin Sweeney, was very organized and had a great plan for them," Sunahara said. "Unfortunately for the freshmen, they came when we first started (practice) instead of having the six weeks prior."

With each player's situation being different from the next, getting everyone at the same level of conditioning has been a difficult process, but the health of everyone has been the top priority through it all.

"The bottom line is safety first," Sunahara said. "So, when they first came back, some of them did more and some of them did less so we gradually brought them back to speed and I think we are in a pretty good spot right now."

The Big 12 announced the full schedule for the upcoming season and it will include conference-only matches and have back-to-back matches throughout the whole year. This includes half of the Big 12 coming to Morgantown for two matches back-to-back days and the other half having the Mountaineers travel.

"I thought that was the best thing to do," Sunahara said about the Big 12 schedule. "Just from a safety standpoint, instead of traveling eight times per year, we're traveling only four now."

In usual seasons, there are many matches with non-conference opponents to prepare for a Big 12 season, but that all changes with how the schedule shapes up this season, which begins Sept. 24 on the road against Texas Tech.

"It's unusual," Sunahara said about playing a conference-only schedule. "We have four weeks of preparation prior to our first conference match so that's going to be a little different, but we've been scrimmaging a little bit here and there and trying to prepare them for that first match when we play at (Texas) Tech."

This unique type of season has guaranteed to bring up unexpected challenges, and

PHOTO BY SETH SEEBAUGH

The WVU volleyball team hits the court later this month after going 12-17 in 2019.

Sunahara is aware his team will need to adjust in order to have a successful season.

"I think the preparation time prior to playing one team," Sunahara said about the challenging part of playing a schedule like this one. "We don't have time to practice in between and then prepare for someone else."

Despite the season being different than anyone would have predicted, Sunahara says that his team has the right mentality to deal with the difficult times.

"Everything's different," Sunahara said. "That's the tough part, but our players are fully engaged in what we're doing. They're locked in and they're trying to be the best. We have a good group of girls, and I'm looking forward to the season."

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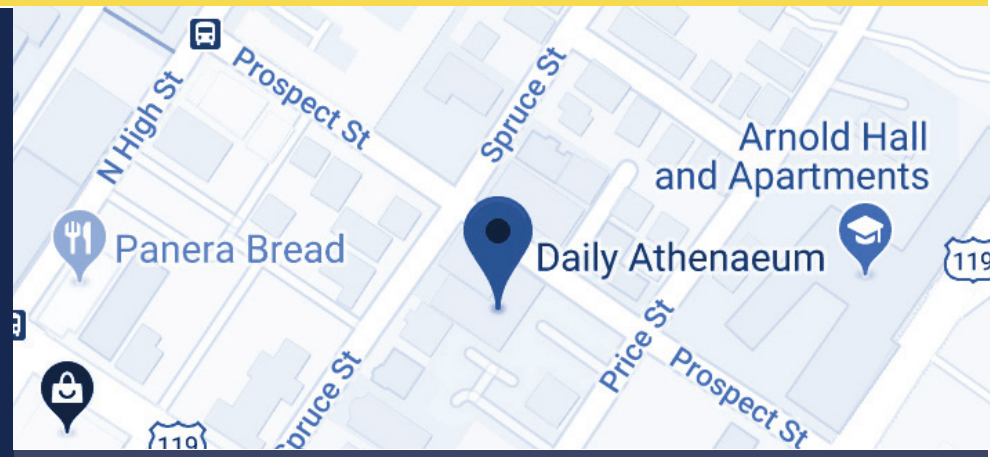

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