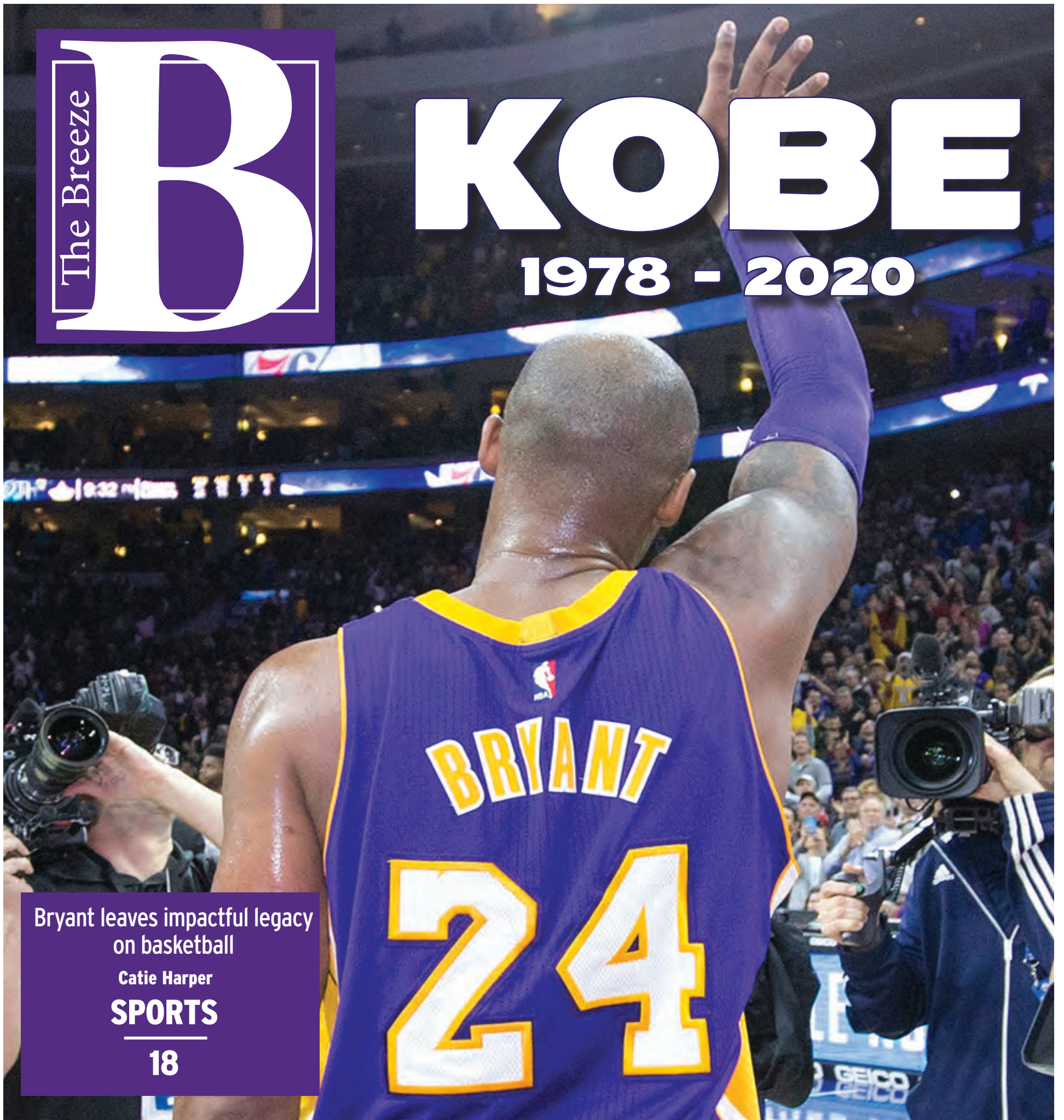




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Symbolic sanctuary

Harrisonburg experiences push to become a Second Amendment sanctuary city

By **JAMIE MCEACHIN**
The Breeze

Since December, Harrisonburg gun stores saw an increase in firearms and ammunition sales, reflecting the statewide increase that made December 2019 the second-highest monthly total of 76,559 firearms sold since 1990.

The increase in sales and support for Harrisonburg to become a sanctuary city may be attributed to gun owners' reactions to the new, more stringent gun control policies at the state level.

The resolution to make Harrisonburg a sanctuary city was proposed by Councilman George Hirschman and discussed by the city council last Tuesday. The resolution would call for local law enforcement to not enforce potential gun control measures that the state legislature might pass, which may include universal background checks or weapon bans on certain firearms.

Harrisonburg gun store owners saw the increase in sales firsthand starting in December, Matt Hill, owner of Liberty Arms, said. Hill said he's sure many of his customers are buying new firearms due to their "frustration" with the newly proposed state gun control laws.

"Every day, someone brings it up, asking, 'What do you think is going to happen?'" Hill said. "Do you think these laws are going to get passed? It's definitely on people's minds, for sure."

The "tremendous increase in sales" in December and January may be attributed both to holiday sales and customers' reactions to the proposed gun policies, Jon Ritenour, owner of Homestead Gunsmith Shop, said. He said he read reports that totaled the newly purchased guns processed by state police in December and so far in January to be over 77,000 in Virginia.

"It's going to affect, particularly, individual sales," Ritenour said. "The way they've got this expanded background check bill written right now, it affects the buyer and the seller."

Ritenour's family has owned Homestead Gunsmith Shop in Harrisonburg for 59 years, and he's an active member and advocate of the firearm community. Homestead Gunsmith Shop chartered a bus to take Harrisonburg residents to the rally in Richmond on Monday, Jan. 20, joining the seven buses that carried Rockingham County residents to the state capitol, Ritenour said.

"The general shooting public is pretty upset at the way things are going," Ritenour said. "We knew what was going to happen if the Democrats took control; it was already on the agenda. We've been trying to push our customers into voter registration and voting."

The advocacy of Harrisonburg gun owners led to the proposed resolution to make the city a Second Amendment sanctuary. Hirschman brought forward this resolution for discussion because of the support for the resolution he heard from community members, and he said he believed it was an issue worth discussion.

The resolution was originally intended by advocates to be on the city council agenda with hopes of council members voting on the issue, but it was relegated to a discussion that showed the rest of council isn't in favor of the resolution, Hirschman said. Community members in the audience gave their vocal support for the resolution.

"What we're doing, essentially, is letting the governor know that we would like to keep those rights," Hirschman said. "That night at council, it was standing room only, and I think there were two people in the room that were against it."

This resolution calls for the new gun control policies to not be enforced within the city limits but is largely understood to be a show of discontent for the proposed legislation. The resolution, if voted in, wouldn't enact any laws or legally allow law enforcement to refuse to enforce the proposed new background checks or weapons bans.

While not legally enforceable, the resolution in Harrisonburg is part of a larger trend that led to what WSL 10 reports is a majority of Virginia counties that have enacted the resolution to be a Second Amendment sanctuary. For gun owners and firearm sellers, the

resolution was a chance to voice their opinion on the legislation, something that Hill and Ritenour both said they believe is usually ignored.

"While a lot of it's symbolic, it's nice to know that your local government's behind you if the state government's not," Hill said.

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Thursday, January 30, 2020

This week's



big 3

GRAPHIC BY CONNOR MURPHY / THE BREEZE

from City Council

By BRICE ESTES
The Breeze

1 Council tees off on the fate of city golf course

Over its nearly two-decade lifespan, city-funded Heritage Oaks Golf Course has lost \$21 million, and Councilman Chris Jones said no data suggests the city should save it.

"We don't make money in Parks and

Rec," Jones said. "But ... should we be losing that much on one particular amenity that soaks up so much land when we only have 17.4 square miles to work with anyway and land is our most precious resource?"

Council members discuss the future of a golf course and animals in the area

The facility's annual revenue has declined approximately \$100,000 from 2017 to 2019. However, Genevieve Chandler, the administrative services manager at Parks and Recreation, said the 153 days of rain Harrisonburg experienced in 2018 caused the loss.

Instead of the golf course, Jones said he'd like to see affordable housing for people who work in the city on the property, which sprawls behind Hillandale Park. He made a motion for City Manager Eric Campbell to research potential outside contractors who could provide a "ballpark price" to investigate the transformation of the 191-acre property.

Councilman Richard Baugh said tasking a contractor with the job would be a "big lift" considering the "800 different variables" that could derail the estimate's validity.

The motion died 1-4, with Jones being the sole proponent.

The chamber promptly emptied when those who scrawled notes during the presentation realized the item wouldn't go up for public hearing.

Baugh said the golf course's opening in 2001 was a "sensitive subject" at the time. Residents led a "revolution" against the city-funded golf course at the turn of the century, plunging council chambers into chaos. The group Taxpayers Against Golf Spending formed to dethrone three councilmembers by running a single-issue campaign.

Their political coup was successful. However, Baugh said the newly elected seats on the council were too late to halt the construction of the golf course. Baugh said he believes the former council's moves to cut initial funding of the facility doomed it.

Heritage Oaks Golf Course's expenditures

in 2019 totaled \$1.2 million.

On the other hand, Chandler said the golf course made \$186,000 more than all other Parks and Recreation facilities and programs — including the Westover Pool and Simms Center — in the 2019 fiscal year combined. Heritage Oaks Golf Course also spent \$2.4 million less than those combined amenities.

Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Brian Mancini said the golf course is Harrisonburg's equivalent to "Central Park." The sweeping greenspace plopped in the hub of the city is home to deer, geese, an eagle and once, a runaway cow.

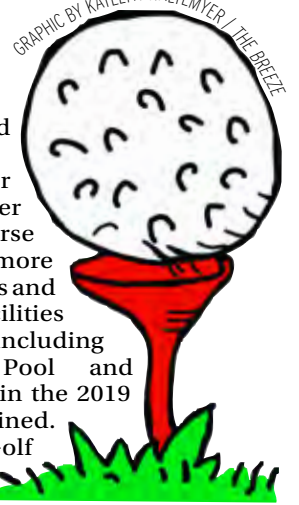
Mancini also cited the golf course's conservation efforts, including its participation in the city-wide pollinator project, which plants pollinator gardens in the urban ecosystem.

Reed agreed with Mancini that more community and private events like weddings and reunions could save the property if residents realize the space's potential for "more than golf."

Jones said he was "frustrated" with the presentation of the golf course's strengths.

"Regardless of history, let's just look at the economic impact and what that means for the city, and that's what I was looking for," Jones said. "I wasn't looking for how awesome the golf course is."

see **CITY COUNCIL**, page 7



GRAPHIC BY KATELYN WALTEMYER / THE BREEZE

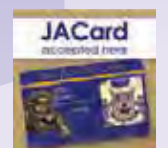
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2. SPCA reports spike in pets given away by owner

In 2019, many feline friends got the boot. Huck Nawaz, the new executive director of the Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA, said it took in 40 fewer dogs in 2019, so cats constitute the total jump in intakes.

The local SPCA revealed to the council that its intake of pets in 2019 increased by 19%. Owners surrendered 1,371 animals in 2019 to the organization as compared to 933 in 2018.

Nawaz speculated that the rise in intakes is an unintended consequence of the center's increased engagement with the community, which is now more aware of the SPCA's shelter service.

Adoption has increased by 70% in 2019 compared to 2018, however. Nawaz said 1,089 animals were taken home in 2019, while only 642 found families in 2018.

The Rockingham-Harrisonburg SPCA partnered with 25 new rescue group partnerships, including Anicura, which handles the majority of the SPCA's surgical cases. These partnerships allowed the shelter to transfer animals to other facilities that had more available space and resources. Transfers at the SPCA increased 173% in 2019.

Last year, the SPCA euthanized half the animals that it did in 2018 as a result of the

increase in adoptions and ability to transfer animals to different shelters.

Councilmembers expressed their satisfaction with Nawaz's management of the facility. Romero offered to share information on adoption opportunities with families at city schools. Jones said he faced daily complaints about the SPCA before Nawaz arrived, but now, he's received none. Mayor Reed thanked Nawaz for his leadership.

"You've been here a year, now," Reed said. "I like the way the numbers are looking."



3. Middle schoolers cluck for chicken raising

Eight 6th graders shuffled single file to face City Council and ask for permission to raise chickens at Great Oak Academy in Harrisonburg.

The students researched the best design for a mobile chicken coop and how to properly care for chickens. Each student delivered a few short words, peeking over the towering podium, before tottering to the side so the next person in the queue could speak. The residents in attendance beamed at each kid who took the stand.

Romero worked with the students as they drafted their proposal, sending them questions he knew the council would want answered.

"Of course, I'm going to support you guys in whatever you guys want to do 'cause that's a great thing for our schools and for you guys," Romero said.

CONTACT Brice Estes at estes2ba@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



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Created equal

Virginia Values Act aims to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity

By **KAMRYN KOCH**
The Breeze

State Sen. Adam Ebbin (D) recently introduced a bill that will provide nondiscrimination protections for the LGBTQ community. On Jan. 10, the Virginia Values Act was proposed in the Virginia General Assembly's 2020 Session as a means to prohibit discrimination in public and private employment, public accommodations and housing on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The bill passed the House General Laws Housing/Consumer Protection Subcommittee yesterday in a 5-1 vote.

Virginia is one of five states without public accommodations protections for any protected class, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. The bill will not only create protections in employment and public and private facilities on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity but also on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, disability or veteran status.

Shenandoah Valley Equality and Equality Virginia jointly sponsored a local panel at Beth El Synagogue in Harrisonburg on Jan. 12 to discuss the impact of the potential law. The panel was composed of former executive director of Equality Virginia James Parrish, SVE board member Grayson Sless and member of the Transgender Advocacy Speakers Bureau William Martin. JMU instructor of middle, secondary and mathematics education and SVE board member David Lane said the audience was composed of approximately 35 people, with members of the LGBTQ community and allies present.

Lane taught for 30 years in Augusta County before teaching at JMU. As a gay man, he said he felt like he couldn't talk about his personal life like his former colleagues could.

"I had to keep to myself because there was always fear," Lane said. "The range of discrimination which exists in Virginia is still quite shocking. I see this legislation as the opening of the door."

JMU's equal opportunity policy states that the university is committed "to support the practice, spirit and good-faith efforts regarding equal opportunity and diversity beyond mere compliance with government regulations." Because of this, Lane said he feels less fear as a faculty member, but he said he still has reason to worry because there's no law yet established

in the state.

JMU assistant professor of public policy and administration Rob Alexander said he recalls a previous local instance when a gay couple was discriminated against. Alexander said that a couple of years ago, a Harrisonburg realtor posted on Facebook that she was part of a transaction in which a seller turned down an offer from a couple because of their sexual orientation.

"This kind of stuff happens," Alexander said. "It's here; it exists. The very first thing that you need is standing to sue, and right now, people who are discriminated against for sexual orientation or identity don't have that standing unless these bills get approved and signed into law."

Lane said it's important to realize that large employers in the area already have nondiscrimination protections for their employees. He listed Merck, MillerCoors and Sentara RMH Medical Center as some of these companies with local offices.

Board member for the Shenandoah LGBTQ Center Cole Troxell said "it has to be personal for people" in order for them to care about this type of legislation. Troxell said he's known his employer for 15 years and feels confident as a transgender man in his profession. He wants to use this confidence to advocate for those who aren't protected and fundraise through the restaurant that he runs, Baja Bean Co., in Staunton.

Lane plans on attending Equality Virginia's "Day of Action" on Feb. 4, which is an event in Richmond organized for citizens to meet with legislators and discuss bills that are important to them. Having attended this once before, Lane said it's an "empowering" day and a learning experience for anyone who takes part.

Lane and Alexander also highlighted the significance of writing to local papers such as The Daily News-Record, The Harrisonburg Citizen and The Breeze to express an opinion. Alexander said the first step is to get engaged in what one believes in. Troxell emphasized the importance of educating others on the bill and making fellow LGBTQ voices heard in the Valley.

"We're only so many," Troxell said. "We're only so loud, and we're only so capable of doing all of the work. We need the support of our community members to show up and put in some work, too."

CONTACT Kamryn Koch at kochkr@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



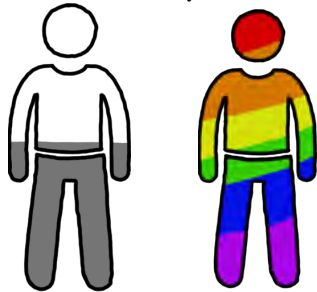
BREEZE FILE PHOTO

JMU's equal opportunity policy supports equality beyond compliance with government regulations.



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The bill passed the House General Laws Housing/Consumer Protection Subcommittee in a 5-1 vote.



LGBTQ youth are twice as likely as their peers to have been physically assaulted



92% of LGBTQ youth say they hear negative messages about being LGBTQ



42% of LGBTQ youth say the community in which they live isn't accepting of LGBTQ people

GRAPHICS BY CONNOR MURPHY / THE BREEZE SOURCE: THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN

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Passion and power

PHOTOS BY ANELISE JOHNSON / THE BREEZE

JMU Spanish professor appointed to Virginia Latino Advisory Board



By **CARLEY WELCH**
The Breeze

Karina Kline-Gabel said her passion for Latino community outreach started from a young age, as she's bicultural and her mother is Columbian. She said growing up Latina in the Harrisonburg area in the 1970s was "very rare." This feeling of rarity is what she said drew her closer to the Latino community.

Kline-Gabel, who's been teaching Spanish at JMU since 2003, was recently appointed for a second time to the Virginia Latino Advisory Board by Gov. Ralph Northam (D). The VLAB is a state board made up of individuals from different parts of Virginia who inform Northam of the Latino community's needs and wants.

"We really serve as a very diverse and unique group of professionals that can represent different areas of the state and try to bring those messages together," Kline-Gabel said.

After teaching the Spanish language and literature, Kline-Gabel said she became interested in policy change. She didn't want to change her career path to become a policymaker, so she decided advocacy work was the best option for her. So, she became involved with the Virginia Latino Higher Education Network and then the VLAB.

"When I started going to college and seeing that there was a community of many immigrants that really didn't know the English language yet, I started volunteering and working a lot with those communities," Kline-Gabel said. "So, it was easy for me to make those connections with people that needed some help assimilating into the community."

She was initially appointed to the VLAB in 2017 to fulfill an "unexpired term," which is when a previous board member steps down or is removed from office before their four-year term is up. In December 2019, Kline-Gabel was reappointed to complete a full term on the advisory board.

Since she was appointed in 2017, Kline-Gabel has held the position of vice-chair. Kline-Gabel said this position entails completing research, discussing with the community and bringing that information to executive committees. This gathered information and research eventually turns into a report that consists of an agenda in the interest of the Latino community, which they believe Northam will be interested in.

"It was a real honor to be selected as quickly as I was to be vice-chair," Kline-Gabel said. "I always feel like it's a very good

position for me."

Karina's daughter, Nina Gabel, attends JMU and is a junior communications studies major. Nina said she sees her mom's interest in the Latino community and culture every day.

"I think all my life, I've felt that my mom has always tried to do her best she can to communicate, to be a representative of the Latino community," Nina said. "She definitely likes to be busy, and I know that she works to be a voice for the Latino population at JMU."

Some policies Karina said she wants to enact while on the VLAB are the creation of inclusive education, allowing a driver's license to be a universal right and affordable housing. Right now, allowing the "undocumented community" to get drivers licenses is something of great concern to the board's agenda.

"This is a very important topic right now, and the governor has recently, I think, shown that he's interested in pursuing that," Karina said. "We have a lot of people that are working in our Latino community that are not allowed to get a driver's license, which you can imagine creates a lot of issues for the children, parents and work-related issues and things."

Director of appointments for advisory boards in Virginia and director of Latino outreach Maribel Castañeda oversaw both of Karina's appointments to the VLAB. Castañeda graduated from JMU in 2015 and said JMU has created a special connection between her and Karina.

"We didn't have any other applicants from that area, so really, reappointing her was an easy choice because she provides so much to the board, and we didn't want to lose that connection and voice from Harrisonburg, JMU in that particular community," Castañeda said.

Additionally, Castañeda said Karina is "well connected to the community" and represents the Shenandoah Valley well.

"We have these advisory boards for governors, and there's so many ways that people can connect," Karina said. "There are just hundreds and hundreds of topics, and I just always try to reach out to people, say, 'Look, if you feel like you have leadership you can bring to a governor's advisory board, don't hesitate. That's how we can all bring our voice to the table.'"

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From a person who gets anxious looking at a messy kitchen.

A **"stay-in-school"** pat to my professor for making a required Gen Ed one of my favorite classes this semester.

From a senior who thought she'd be over it.

A **"happy!"** pat to Target for putting big bottles of wine on clearance.

From a stressed out 22-year-old who has a relaxing weekend planned.

Ignore 'Gun Girl'

To reduce Kaitlin Bennett's social media presence, it's best to not pay attention to her

JOANNA SOMMER | insightful thoughts



Kaitlin Bennett became an internet sensation after posting her graduation photo from Kent State University in which she posed on her university's campus, smiling in a white dress with an AR-15 strapped over her shoulder and "Come and Take It" written across her graduation cap.

Since that moment, Bennett has become a popular media figure due to her far-right activism and pro-gun agenda, earning her a mass following. With almost 275K followers on Twitter, 138K on Instagram and 398K subscribers on her YouTube channel, Liberty Hangout, Bennett has spent a portion of her time as a conservative, self-proclaimed journalist traveling to various protests and festivals to push her opinions on those who disagree with her.

For those who disagree with Bennett's beliefs and decisions to speak out on her political stances, it's best to ignore the content that surfaces on social media. Although it might be tempting to click on her videos or quote her tweets, the more attention she receives, the more influential she becomes.

Bennett's success in pushing her agenda has risen quickly due to how many people engage with her posts. Whether the comments directed at her are good or bad, she takes any kind of attention and morphs it into a positive light because no matter what the context is, it still gets people talking about her.

On one of her most viral videos on Liberty Hangout, "College Students Have No Morals," Bennett travels to the University of Kentucky to ask college students how they feel about putting tampons and pads in men's bathrooms and urinals in women's bathrooms. The general consensus of this video is that college students don't care what's in their bathrooms if it's promoting inclusivity as long as no one is getting hurt. This video currently has over 669K views and particularly stands out because the majority of people's responses are monotonous and unimpressed, giving Bennett less of an opportunity to dig into people's opinions and reveal why they may be "incorrect."

Bennett tends to use people's words against them. Her strategy involves making statements and asking people questions that are deliberately provoking, leading them to react out of anger and defensiveness. Then, Bennett tries to make herself

look like the victim who's "being attacked" by other people. She feeds off being deemed as the victim and uses it to her advantage by making liberals look like the bad guys when, in reality, she's the one that's stirred the pot from the beginning.

In another Liberty Hangout video, "Pride Gets Peaceful," Bennett goes to a Pride parade located in Des Moines, Iowa. In this video, Bennett goes out of her way to interact with people trying to enjoy themselves at the event. She yells at a group of people and tells them how she's trying to expose them for being so "intolerant." In this video, she's trying to expose people at the event for upholding open-mindedness by being intolerant to any ideas she argues. She also ridicules people for their attire and attending the event. She calls several people nasty, and when they give her a frustrated reaction, she claims that everyone at the parade is a hypocrite because they're supposed to be "all about love." This is a perfect example of her argumentative strategy: She makes her point by belittling others and proceeds to cry "wolf" when they react. By not giving Bennett any reaction at all, it limits her opportunity to play the victim and have an in-depth argument.

Bennett has no issue with being rude to others. She gains fuel from getting reactions out of people, which is why it's better to not give her any at all. In many of her videos, she can be found acting out in offensive ways or straight up being mean to others. Although she makes it tempting to react by promoting obviously controversial content that draws attention to her, she does it so people can give her the reaction she needs to feel validated.

Ignoring Bennett is the only way to eliminate her arguments. When she realizes that no one cares about her hostile thoughts, the only thing she'll be able to do is sulk in her own opinion.

Joanna Sommer is a sophomore media arts and design major. Contact her at sommerjj@dukes.jmu.edu.



"She gains fuel from getting reactions out of people, which is why it's better to not give her any at all."

Joanna Sommer
Opinion columnist

@breezejmu @TheBreezeOp The Breeze Breeze Video breezejmu.org Thursday, January 30, 2020

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The Breeze
1598 S. Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

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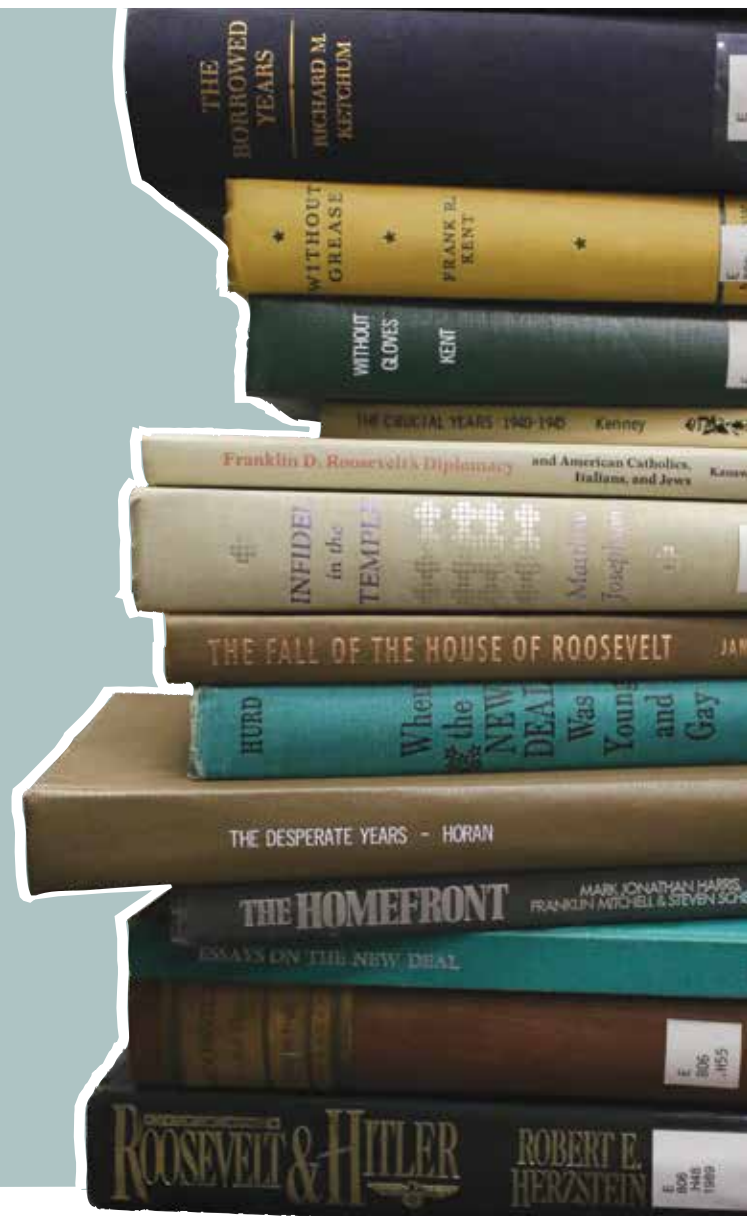
Letters and guest columns should be submitted in print or via e-mail and must include name, phone number, major/year if author is a current student (or year of graduation), professional title (if applicable) and place of residence if author is not a JMU student.

Drop everything and read

A list of books to read annually can lead to happiness

Editor picks

- “Fangirl” by Rainbow Rowell
- “I’ll Give You the Sun” by Jandy Nelson
- “The Glass Castle” by Jeannette Walls
- “The Truth About Forever” by Sarah Dessen
- “The Great Gatsby” by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- “Wuthering Heights” by Emily Bronte
- “The Alchemist” by Paulo Coelho
- “The Count of Monte Cristo” by Alexander Dumas
- “The Help” by Kathryn Stockett



BREEZE FILE PHOTO

LIZ RICCIO | contributing columnist



Nobel laureate Ferit Orhan Pamuk once said, “I read a book one day, and my whole life was changed.”

Now Turkey’s best-selling author, one can clearly see how simply cracking open a novel has

the potential to open doors — even minute ones — which one may have never thought possible.

Unfortunately, simply reading a book won’t instantly grant fame and fortune. But, slowly gaining knowledge about new subjects and garnering inspiration for future endeavors through literature already gives one an edge over those who don’t read.

There have been many studies which detail the little-known benefits of creating annual reading lists and sticking to them. For example, The Telegraph reports that reading for just a few minutes a day can decrease stress levels by over 60%, which is even more beneficial than relaxing by watching Netflix or exercising. Additionally, reading regularly has also been linked to slowing down the effects of neurological disorders like Alzheimer’s and dementia, as stimulating one’s mind often keeps it sharp and active. Beyond just the physiological benefits of reading, there are countless intellectual and interpersonal benefits, too.

Reading regularly exposes one to new vocabulary, ideas, beliefs, places and traditions that they may not have thought about prior. This exposure to new vocabulary can allow people to communicate more effectively and significantly increases their ethos. Learning about different cultures and

practices can have tremendous advantages in the workplace and beyond. Being able to converse with international partners is extremely important in contributing to a well-rounded view of the world.

One may wonder what types of books have the most positive effects on the reader, but the amazing reality is that it’s entirely up to the individual who compiles the list of titles. Creating one’s own annual reading list is easy, insightful and fun.

First, one should think about the things they would like to see improvement in or gain insight about. This will highlight genres and subjects that are of interest to the reader as well as emphasizing more specific topics. One helpful tip is to research international best-sellers lists for up-to-date literature on the matters most important to the reader.

Besides reading about particular subject matter, another great addition to an effective reading list is to include classic books in categories that may not at first appeal to the reader. Adding an inspiring biography written by an aging philosophy professor or studying tips about investing money given by a long-time employee of Wall Street may not sound thrilling, but one would be surprised by the impact that the novels’ advice can provide. Compiling a diverse list of authors and topics allows the reader to broaden their horizons in a multitude of subjects and, therefore, have the upper hand in countless situations.

Sticking to an annual reading list year after year will satisfy one’s intellectual curiosities while providing them with resources and advice for future ventures. If everybody had a reading list, humanity would become more open-minded as they learn and react to the situations of those around them while inspiring readers to enjoy diving into new realms of interest.

Liz Riccio is a freshman media arts and design major. Contact Liz at riccioem@dukes.jmu.edu.

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Carrie Owen Plietz ('97),
*Executive Vice President
and Chief Operating Officer,
Hospital Division of WellStar
Health System*



Kathy Warden ('92),
*Chairman, Chief Executive
Officer and President of
Northrop Grumman*

The panel will be moderated by Bobbie Kilberg, longtime leader of the Northern Virginia Technology Council.



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Citizens of Hong Kong struggle against China's Communist Party with no assistance from the US government, but normal civilians can still help

ANDREY CHUN | contributing columnist



When looking around at contemporary American civil society, it's easy to get lost in the hype and bluster coming from its political system. Especially with the current impeachment debates raging

over President Trump and the hyper-partisanship, it's easy to take for granted the sacred First Amendment rights to freedom to petition the government and to an open society that the U.S. Constitution provides.

Despite the ability of Americans to take civil liberties for granted, the time has come to realize that it may be up to the United States to defend and preserve the freedoms of Hong Kong citizens.

Unfortunately, the people of Hong Kong have been seeing these rights to open society and petition of the government slowly get chipped away by the Communist Party of China (CPC) since its handover in 1997.

This has boiled over into the current unrest and demonstrations that have been ongoing since this past summer over the introduction of an extradition bill that would allow for Hong Kong citizens to be sent to mainland China for prosecution. Many feared that this would

allow China to imprison those in Hong Kong who criticize the CPC's power and stifle democracy in Hong Kong. With the ever-growing power of the CPC, many governments and companies around the world have been fearful to speak out in support of the freedoms that Hong Kong deserves.

The current unrest that's plaguing Hong Kong is just the beginning of what's necessary for the people to ensure that their freedoms are lasting for future generations. Given that Hong Kong is in a do-or-die battle against the Communist Party's authoritative regime, one would think that the U.S. and other Western countries would be quick to support it, but sadly, much of this has yet to be seen.

The Chinese government has also been going on an assault against any organization or government that's been supporting the Hong Kong protest, just as it has in many previous high-profile cases throughout its history. Daryl Morey, the Houston Rockets' general manager, posted a tweet last October supporting the protests in Hong Kong, which caused great outrage among government leaders in China and ultimately cost the team around \$20 million in sponsorship agreements from China, according to Sports Illustrated.

Morey ultimately deleted the tweet, and NBA star LeBron James, despite being a frequent advocate for civil rights causes in the past, lashed out at the tweet due to the crisis it caused, according to

CNN. This set a precedent that the CPC can do whatever it wants to subvert the rights of people since Western countries are more concerned about the immediate money they can gain from China's growing middle-class that, given China's restrictive and protectionist economic policies, will ultimately be won over by Chinese firms, according to the New York Times.

With U.S. companies' ever-increasing presence in China, it'll be up to everyone enjoying freedom in the West to defend and support those who see their human rights being violated. With the age of instant communication afforded to every JMU student, it should be simple to learn about and express sympathy for Hong Kong citizens' plight.

Every student at JMU likely has an account on a major social media platform like Twitter or Instagram, and using those platforms to express support for Hong Kong's democratic freedoms is quick and easy for Gen-Zers. Additionally, using social media is an excellent way to place pressure on U.S. firms that self-censor and support the Communist Party of China's oppressive regime by quietly erasing parts of free and open expression in the American market to appease their Chinese regulators, according to the Washington Post.

A clear example of censorship to U.S. consumers is the 2019 case of CBS censoring the animated short, "Good Fight," when there was mention of China's

brutal treatment of Uyghur Muslims in the Xinjiang autonomous region and censorship, according to the New York Times. If people were to push back, U.S. firms would face greater risks in allowing China to trample over human rights and freedom of expression in Hong Kong.

In addition to using online platforms to support Hong Kong, one can contact their elected federal representative about supporting freedoms in Hong Kong and holding the Chinese government accountable for any actions against them.

This may seem like a dated and rather time-consuming effort that's futile in today's hyper-partisan era, but in fact, the U.S. Congress has the potential to be Hong Kong's biggest ally. As with Taiwan, members of Congress from both political parties have been willing to buck mainland China's wishes and support laws in favor of Taiwan. Given that fact, placing pressure on Congress to vocally support Hong Kong's freedoms could be one of the best things everyone can do.

It may seem silly that a college student with a smartphone in Virginia can help a movement occurring on the other side of the world, but it can take just one more person to care about this serious threat to Hong Kong to tip the scale to the side of freedom, democracy and human justice.

Andrey Chun is a junior international affairs and economics double major. Contact Andrey at chunsaax@dukes.edu.

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Thursday, January 30, 2020

Through the lens

Self-taught local photographer showcases gallery of work at OASIS Fine Art & Craft in downtown Harrisonburg

By **MORGAN VUKNIC**
The Breeze

Four years ago, Erin Harrigan knew nothing about professional cameras. But when she first purchased her Nikon D3300, travel bag and lens kits at the Crutchfield store in Harrisonburg, she was ready to shoot.

"I was beyond excited. I rushed home and photographed everything I could," Harrigan said. "I mean, everything: ice cubes, my shower, flowers in the yard, grass, wine glasses, running water from the water hose and, of course, my son."

Harrigan's photography, a portfolio of photos of the nature surrounding Harrisonburg and the Valley, is currently featured in OASIS Fine Art & Craft in Downtown Harrisonburg. She said she began pursuing photography when she moved to the Shenandoah Valley from Baltimore. She said she's always loved photography but was struggling to get pictures of subjects like the moon on her phone, so she began looking into taking it more seriously.

Both Barbara Camph, a stain glass artist, and Harrigan's brother, Bob Ballowe, said it's been amazing to see how much Harrigan's photography has improved. Camph said Harrigan's early work was less bold, less adventurous and that she's grown in the ways she presents and takes her photos.

"Erin is a talented photographer who seeks out unusual subjects or angles," Camph said. "She presents her images in new ways, such as on large canvases and on metallic prints in a variety of sizes. Her work is striking, from the image, to the composition, to the presentation."

Ballowe said Harrigan's growth has been subtle over time, but at times, he'll get these "Woah," or "Wow," moments, and that's when he realizes how far she's come over the years.

Harrigan said one of her favorite subjects to photograph is nature. She said moving to the Shenandoah Valley enabled her to photograph many new and unique landscapes that she hadn't been exposed to before. Harrigan said she loves finding special features in nature and that she enjoys experimenting with lighting.

"I have never been what I would consider artistic. I have always been creative," Harrigan said. "I could come up with lots of stories and creative ideas, but I never had the patience to follow through with the hands-on practice of writing, painting or drawing. I could, however, sit for hours working on puzzles and playing chess."

Harrigan said she enjoys how photography forces her to use both sides of her brain: the technical and the creative. The creative aspect is needed to make art through photography, Harrigan said, and when it comes to understanding the technical side, some elements of science, math, physics and even meteorology for certain landscapes are needed.

"I have to look for new perspectives, for ways to incorporate the human element, shapes, colors and, most importantly, light," Harrigan said. "So for me, that's the perfect balance of a puzzle and story. I can, in quick order, take the idea or idea that's in my mind and create an image that hopefully communicates what I see and feel."

While Harrigan loves photographing nature, she also enjoys changing up her lenses and techniques for more artistic and creative looks.

To show both the movement and stillness of a subject, she said she uses a long exposure combined with an off-camera flash. When the subject moves through the long exposure, there's a blur of the movement, and then the flash freezes it.

Another brand of lenses Harrigan said she likes to use is Lensbaby. These allow her to create innovative optics that are similar to a tilt shift lens. They let her select a point she wants to focus on before blurring other areas to create exceptional compositions.

Camph said she believes art can enrich a person and serve as a creative outlet. Harrigan said she uses her photography to tell a story with her camera as a tool to bring it to life. She doesn't use her camera to simply document a scene, she said; she wants to make sure a story's there and that she's conveying a certain emotion.

"Art is an expression, a window or a reflection of one's soul," Ballowe said. "Art lets us appreciate the results of an artist's beautiful gift to the rest of the world."

CONTACT Morgan Vuknic at vuknicma@dukes.jmu.edu. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.



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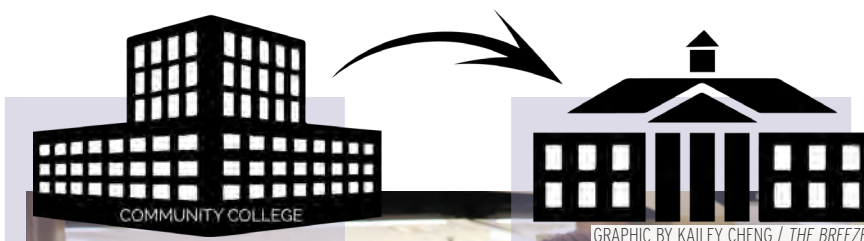
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Different kinds of **welcome**

Transfer students open up about difficulties they face at JMU



GRAPHIC BY KAILEY CHENG / THE BREEZE



PHOTOS BY ROSE STUARD / THE BREEZE

Sarah Rose Hosseinian (left) and Mariela Arellano both attended community colleges prior to JMU.

By **CHARLOTTE MATHERLY**
The Breeze

During her first days at JMU, Sarah Rose Hosseinian struggled to put herself out there and make friends on campus. Everyone seemed to already have a friend group, and she felt awkward because many people in her new sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta, had already lived with each other freshman year and had formed strong connections. Although she had no one to get lunch or study with, she didn't want to force her way into a tight-knit group of friends.

According to the JMU website, over 1,000 transfer students enroll every year. However, this significant portion of the student body may often be overlooked.

Transfer students can sometimes face the unique struggle of joining a community from a completely different starting point, one where friend groups may already be made and fellow transfers may be hard to find.

Hosseinian, a senior health sciences major, transferred in the fall of 2017 after attending both a four-year university and a community college. She said that compared to Mount St. Mary's University in Maryland and Northern Virginia Community College, JMU is much bigger than any other college she's attended.

"As I transferred to JMU, it felt like everything just, kind of, like, clicked all together ... It was a big change, but it was, like, a good change," Hosseinian said. "From being a little baby freshman to now a [senior] and, like, just being in a community that I know I can belong to and just throw myself in as many clubs as I can do."

While at that time freshmen had a week-long orientation before starting classes, transfer students only had one weekend for theirs. Hosseinian said that because most transfer students come in as juniors having already completed two years of college, people weren't as interested in orientation events, which made making initial connections and meeting friends more difficult.

JMU does a good job of integrating transfer students into the community at

the beginning, Hosseinian said, but then, they leave students to "hang there" and figure it out for themselves after the initial events.

Because transfers often live off-campus, she said she'd like to see JMU host more events to bring them together. When she arrived at JMU, Hosseinian said it became easier to "navigate, just, like, a new community with people who have ... similar interests and experiences makes it a lot easier to ... integrate into where you are." Although it was tough at first, Hosseinian said a large part of her involvement at JMU came from joining a sorority, where she soon felt accepted and welcomed.

Mariela Arellano, a junior computer information systems major, transferred to JMU this January from Blue Ridge Community College. Arellano pays for her education, so she lives at home in Bridgewater, Virginia, with her parents and commutes to class every day.

Arellano said she left her previous four-year university, Bridgewater College, because the community there leaned toward conservative views. She transferred to community college, and now JMU, hoping to feel more comfortable voicing her opinions.

"I tend to ... stay quiet, and stuff, and I don't want to do that," Arellano said. "I want to find people that are ... like-minded. To grow as a person, you need to see it from the other person's perspective, but you also need to feel comfortable enough to be able to [share your own opinion]."

Arellano said she's struggled to get involved with the JMU community. Because many transfer students come to Virginia universities through the guaranteed admissions program, Arellano said most people are focused on academics and not a social life.

"It's a lot easier to make friends as a freshman because everyone's new, everyone's trying to, like, latch onto each other," Arellano said. "Cause when I went to Bridgewater College, I made a ton of friends really easily, and [here, I have to] put myself out there a little more."

Like Arellano, Markus Grantz

transferred to JMU during spring semester. Grantz, a junior justice studies major, came to JMU from Northern Virginia Community College in the spring of 2019. Grantz said he liked the option to get general education classes out of the way at a cheaper place, but it was more difficult to get integrated into the campus community as a transfer student.

Grantz said that while it was a struggle to put himself out there and make friends, he thinks JMU does well in making sure transfer students feel welcome. He said that when he voiced his questions to JMU staff, he was always listened to and was given any help they could give.

After only one semester at JMU, Grantz became a Transfer Orientation Peer Advisor (TOPA) and assisted new transfer students during their three-day orientation last August. Grantz said being a TOPA changed his perspective on life as a transfer student.

"It put a bigger perspective on, just, how wide, diverse [this] group of transfer students are," Grantz said, "just the idea of how many different stories and different backgrounds transfer students have."

Miguel Cavallero is a sophomore biology major who transferred from Northern Virginia Community College this January. Coming from a community college, he said JMU was nothing like he expected.

Even as a spring transfer, he said he's found events to attend, such as the Transfer Student Celebration. He said students and staff alike kindly offered to help him multiple times during his first week at JMU.

"Everyone here is actually really friendly," Cavallero said. "I always thought that was, like, just a saying that they said, like, everybody at JMU is very friendly. But it's actually really true."

CONTACT Charlotte Matherly at mathercg@dukes.jmu.edu. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.

Humans of **Madison**

Interviews collected on JMU's campus

PHOTO BY ALEXA FITZPATRICK / THE BREEZE



Kris Honaker

"I started playing soccer when I was four, actually. I did my first academy when I was four, and I played [recreationally] until I was like 10, and I started playing travel. My travel coach was my high school coach, too, so I played with the same people I played with when I was younger all the way until my senior year, so it was kind of like we became kind of like a family. It was really cool, and we were all pretty close."

"And then, since I played soccer so much, you hurt yourself sometimes, so I did physical therapy a lot. My [therapist] was actually one of my teammates' dads, so I talked to him about what he did a lot, and that just got me really interested in it. So, when I started looking at colleges I wanted to find a college that had a program, like, a good [physical therapy] program, and JMU has a good kinesiology degree — like, Pre-PT program — so I started looking here, and I decided that I really liked the campus here, and my tour was really awesome, like, the tour guide was really cool. I decided that I really wanted to go here, so I applied kinesiology Pre-PT, and I got in, so that's what I do now. It just makes me feel like I'm still kind of doing something like I used to, and it reminds me of that."

Watch the video and submit a nomination on breezejmu.org



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The 2 Plate Pale Ale brew is available at almost all 20 Benny's locations.

By TAYLOR SARLO
The Breeze

For the past six years, Benny Sorrentino's has been famous in Harrisonburg for its funky murals and larger-than-life pizza slices featuring exciting toppings like sriracha chicken, bacon mac and cheese, and balsamic glazed tomatoes.

Now, the business has expanded its repertoire of local beers by adding 2 Plate Pale Ale to the menu.

2 Plate Pale Ale is an original brew from Three Notch'd Brewing Company that's now available at almost all 20 Benny's locations.

"It sold out right away," Jon Durham, Benny's regional manager and store co-owner, said. "People love it."

Three Notch'd is a Charlottesville-based brewery with taproom locations throughout Virginia, including one in downtown Harrisonburg. Part of its mission is to take part in community collaborations by creating custom-brewed beers for local businesses, according to their website.

Past collaborations have been occurred between Three Notch'd and other valley favorites, like Shenandoah Joe, producing Jack's Java Espresso Stout.

Three Notch'd custom brews are crafted to complement the season as well as the business' existing menus. Their online collaboration request form also asks "What story do you want to tell with this beer?" and "How do you leave your mark?" to ensure the beer they create most accurately represents the business. For 2 Plate Pale Ale, the brewery came up with the beer recipe while Durham thought of its name.

"We've been wanting to brew a beer for a really long time," Durham said. "Three Notch'd was on board with it. They helped us through the whole process."

Benny's had the help of Virginia Tech student interns to design the colorful 16-ounce can for the beer. It features a neon pink pepperoni slice — on two paper plates, of course — over a funky zebra stripe-esque blue and yellow background that perfectly fits the artsy and colorful vibe of Benny's restaurants.

The beer was carefully crafted, as the bitterness of the IPA flavor pairs well with the taste of pizza. Chris Cohen of the San Francisco Homebrewers Guild explained to Serious Eats, an all things food and drink resource, why pale ales and pizza make a great duo.

Harrisonburg's Benny Sorrentino's adds 2 Plate Pale Ale to its menu for customers to enjoy new local palate



Virginia Tech student interns designed the 2 Plate Pale Ale can to go with the colorful Benny's aesthetic.

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“Crispy, hoppy beers are classic to pair with pizza,” Cohen said. “Thick cheese, rich tomato sauce, grease and bread [are] a beautiful assault on the senses. The cure is a bitter and carbonated beverage to cleanse your palate.”

While pizza and pale ales are a great match, 2 Plate Pale Ale is the only beer that’s been handcrafted to accompany the massive Benny’s “Virginia Slice.” One whole pizza from Benny’s measures 28 inches in diameter, which is as long as the average nine-month-old baby, according to “The Bump.”

“Because it was such a small batch, we are the exclusive sellers of it,” Durham said. “But, they saved the recipe and we will be able to re-release it again.”

Kristen Bolger, a senior political science major, said she loves going to Benny’s. She grew up in a pizza-loving family, and the oversized and well-priced Benny’s slices quickly became a favorite of hers to enjoy with friends and family while attending JMU.

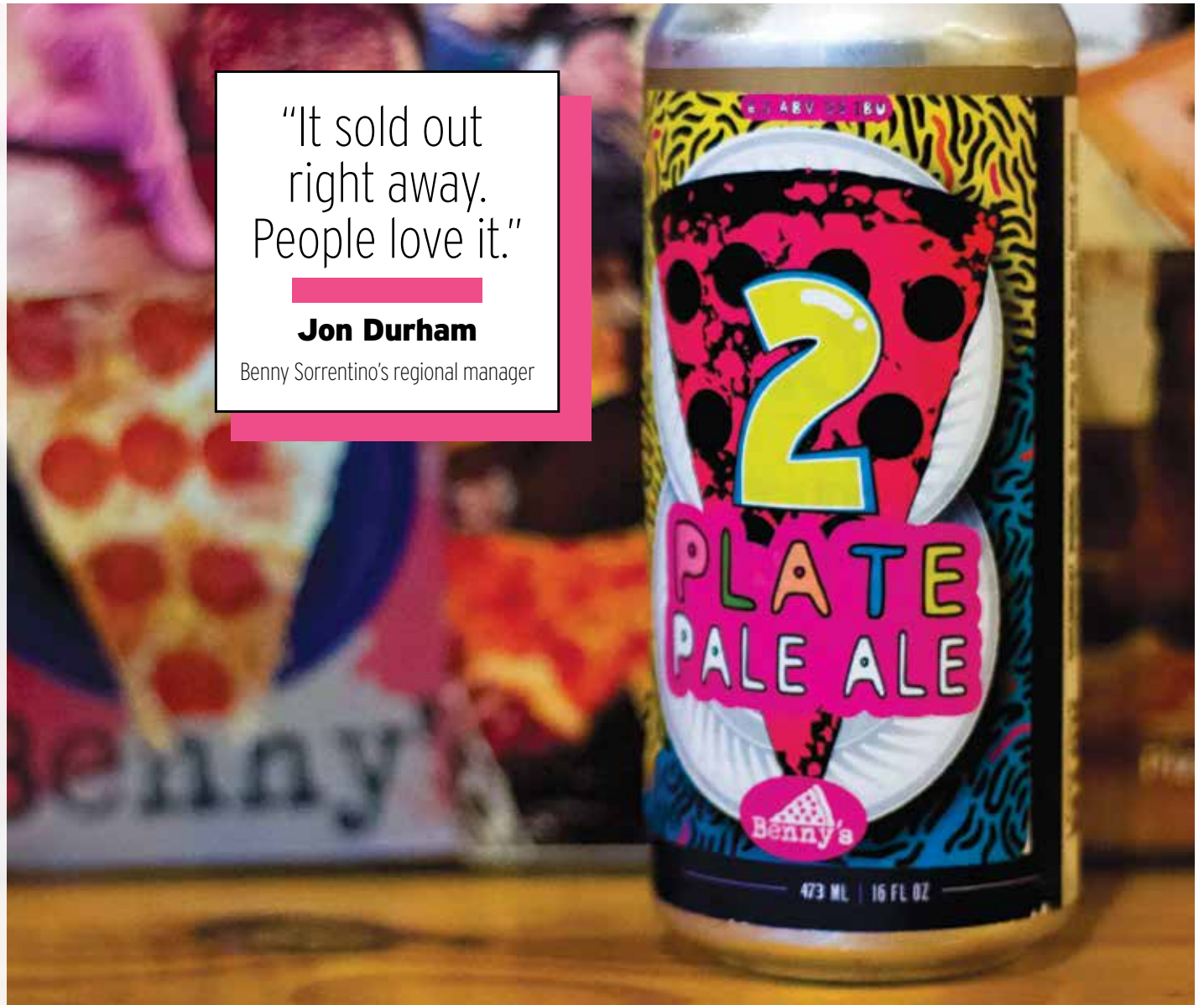
“My brother is a huge pizza fanatic,” Bolger said. “We always get Benny’s when he comes to visit because it’s one of the only places that lives up to his high standards.”

Bolger also enjoys the local beer offerings in the Valley and said she was pleased to hear about the partnership between Benny’s and Three Notch’d.

“Ever since I turned 21, it’s been so much fun to try all of the local breweries in the area,” Bolger said. “I’m excited to head to Benny’s and try their new pale ale.”

Pizza and beer fans alike can now enjoy an authentic, Harrisonburg pairing for a limited time while 2 Plate Pale Ale remains in stock. Benny’s customers can decide for themselves which slice to choose from — whether it’s jalapeño poppers, chicken bacon ranch or Philly cheesesteak — goes best with the newest bitter, yet satisfying, drink on the menu.

CONTACT Taylor Sarlo at breezeartdirector@gmail.com. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.



“It sold out right away. People love it.”

Jon Durham
Benny Sorrentino’s regional manager

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EDITORS Catie Harper & Noah Ziegler EMAIL breezesports@gmail.com

GRAPHIC BY TAYLOR SARLO / THE BREEZE

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Sports community endures
loss of universal playerBy CATIE HARPER
The Breeze

He's going to be a first-ballot selection into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame later this year.

But now, he won't be in the audience when it happens.

The death of NBA great Kobe Bryant left the world speechless — and not just members of the basketball community. He was a transcendent player who, even after retiring from the game in 2016, continued to leave an impact.

As the news began to spread, the initial response from so many was utter disbelief, and it's understandable why. The death of a huge name like Bryant can create a weird dynamic. It can be hard to accept that a larger-than-life figure, who so many aspire to emulate, is gone.

Bryant had an almost untouchable aspect to him, all while being someone who everyone felt like they knew. It always seemed that Bryant would be there to influence basketball for decades to come. But then, just like that, he was gone at only 41.

A kid from Philadelphia, Bryant quickly rose to the top of the basketball world, forgoing college to enter the league at just 17. Once there, he made the NBA his own, and the Staples Center became Bryant's place.

When he hung up his jersey for the final time back in 2016, Bryant had five league titles, a league MVP and had been selected for the NBA All-Star game an eye-popping 18 times. He finished his career with 33,643 points which, for several years, put him as No. 3 all-time in scoring. LeBron James passed him for that spot in a game against the 76ers just one night before Bryant died.

It's also important to note that even with all the accolades on the court, Bryant's life wasn't this picture-perfect spectacle of a professional athlete. He had his problems, including being accused of rape. According to an article by *The New York Times*, he never faced trial in the rape case, however, after prosecutors dropped the case, and he also lost sponsorship deals with corporations like McDonalds. Following the charges being dropped, Bryant released an apology, acknowledging the other side.

During his 20-season basketball career, it wasn't always about what he was doing on the court. Once he retired, his family became a central focus.

Bryant was a father of four girls — Natalia, Gianna, Bianka and Capri. Gianna was on the helicopter with her father that day. The father and daughter, along with seven others, according to a *Los Angeles Times* article, were on the way to a basketball game — one Kobe was supposed to coach in.



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COURTESY OF TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Bryant and his daughter, Gianna, were heading to a basketball tournament when the helicopter crashed.

As much joy as Kobe must have had being a star basketball player, it's not hard to believe that he valued being a father more. When on Jimmy Kimmel Live! one night, Kobe gushed about Gianna, whom the Bryants called Gigi. He knew she wanted to play in the WNBA and made sure people knew he didn't need a son to carry on the Bryant legacy. Gigi would do just fine at that.

Kobe's belief in his daughters as carriers of his legacy is understandable when one looks at his dedication to growing the game — especially for women. According to USA Today, he spent the last two seasons coaching Gigi's AAU team and often sat and watched different NBA games with her.

But his drive to help didn't stop with his daughters. Kobe hosted WNBA players last year in his training facility to help them through workouts ahead of their next season. At the college level, Kobe created a relationship with Oregon senior guard Sabrina Ionescu, the presumed No. 1 overall pick in the upcoming WNBA draft.

Ionescu played in a game Sunday only moments after finding out about her mentor's death, saying after the game during an on-court interview, "Everything I do, I do it for him ... And this season's for him."

Kobe's impact on the game was undeniably felt even by those he never met. On Sunday, following JMU women's basketball's win over Northeastern, senior guards Kamiah Smalls and Lexie Barrier and head coach Sean O'Regan all addressed the importance of Kobe and what that name means throughout basketball.

"The big thing for me was the fact that he did so

much for women's basketball as a whole," Barrier said. "He made it a point to go out of his way to recognize these female athletes that are doing big things out here. Women's basketball is not always recognized as much as men's basketball ... So, coming from such a legend, I just really think that meant a lot."

Smalls added how hard it is to accept the death of Kobe's daughter Gigi, saying that she was "the next generation of women" playing the game. Smalls even highlighted that it isn't a common sight to see a girl growing up with a dad like Kobe and emulating his game.

"When I heard about it, my heart stopped, like, it was kinda like a family member," Smalls said. "I don't know Kobe personally at all, but I do know that any time that man stepped onto the court, he gave his all. Even in his retirement, he continued to give back to the game."

It's hard to not feel like the sports world lost a friend. Kobe passing away isn't strictly a "basketball thing." His impact was universal and can't be caged into one area. An NBA champion, an MVP, an Oscar winner, an Olympian, a father, a husband, a mentor — Kobe wore many titles.

His death isn't one sports fans were ready for. It isn't one they want to accept yet, and it's not something fans will get over tomorrow or next week. It's going to leave a long-lasting hole in basketball.

CONTACT Catie Harper at breezesports@gmail.com. For more basketball coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.

Reliving Kobe's career

Five-time NBA Champion

18 All-Star selections

No. 4 all-time in points

NBA MVP

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Oscar winner

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Thursday, January 30, 2020

In memory of

Kobe Bryant

Gianna Bryant

John Altobelli

Keri Altobelli

Alyssa Altobelli

Sarah Chester

Payton Chester

Ara Zobayan

Christina Mauser

BREEZE FILE PHOTO



Jimmy Moreland started five times for the Redskins in his rookie season.

Dukes in the NFL

JMU football had numerous players compete in the NFL in the 2019-20 season

By **SAVANNAH REGER**
The Breeze

Many NFL fans overlook the impact of non-FBS players, even though over 9% of the league is made of FCS players, and each team had at least two FCS players on its 53-man rosters in 2019.

JMU has slowly been adding its impact to the NFL. The more elite players the Dukes recruit, the more likely they end up sending players to the NFL. This year, JMU had seven players make NFL rosters at the start of the season, with five being named to active rosters.

Former JMU standout Jimmy Moreland was drafted to the Washington Redskins in the seventh round of the 2019 NFL draft, 227th overall. He was the first JMU football player drafted since Earl Watford in 2013. Moreland had 18 interceptions at JMU, which is a school record.

Through the 2019 season, Moreland had 621 snaps, and his impact was felt. During the season, Moreland had 41 tackles, 32 of which were solo. During Week 12 against Detroit, he had a major

goal-line stand tackle to help the Redskins win their second game of the season. In what seemed like Josh Norman's last season in Washington, Moreland could see more minutes in 2020 after going through another training camp.

During this past season, the NFL saw the emergence of the Tampa Bay Dukes. Training with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, Ishmael Hyman, Aaron Stinnie, Earl Watford and Josh Wells all represented JMU. Even though Hyman was ultimately let go from the Buccaneers at the end of the season, the four remaining players had chemistry and worked to make an impact on the team. This group of four not only worked hard but promoted JMU in the process.

JMU also had some Dukes in the playoffs for the NFL this season. Rashard Davis previously won Super Bowl LII with the Philadelphia Eagles and recorded his first career catch this season in a Week 17 win against the Texans. Davis also played and helped the Titans in their win in New England on Wild Card Weekend.

Former JMU standout Marcus Marshall is currently on the practice squad for the Super Bowl-bound Chiefs, as well. Green Bay Packers safety Raven Greene is also from JMU and was a part of a Packers team that got all the way to the NFC Championship game this year.

Some other JMU standouts in the league this year include Dean Marlowe of the Buffalo Bills and Daniel Brown of the New York Jets. Brown was lower on the depth chart for the Jets but made his impact known on the field. Against Moreland's Redskins in Week 11, Brown had one of his best games of the season, catching a 20-yard touchdown pass.

Marlowe worked hard as well for Buffalo, contributing four tackles in the final week of the regular season in a losing effort against the Jets. Before the Jets game, Marlowe had seven tackles, including two tackles in a Week 8 loss to the Eagles.

Even though many of the NFL Dukes were low on the depth chart this past season, this is just the beginning of their impact. Moreland

is set to follow Norman in the coming years, looking to become a prime option for the Redskins in the nickel position. Hyman has signed a contract with the Carolina Panthers and will look to make a spot with them next season. Greene, after coming off an injury-plagued year, will be healthy at the start of next season and will look to be valuable to the Packers. Even though most of the Dukes in the NFL will probably move teams in the offseason, they will still look to give JMU a good representation in the NFL.

Even though the FCS schools don't make as much an impact as the FBS ones do, they're still there, and in JMU's case, its impact will be heading in the right direction for the future. After coming off a national championship appearance, JMU has the chance to add even more players next year in the 2020 NFL season.

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SAMANTHA LINCZYC / THE BREEZE



Schedule breakdown

Rising redshirt senior running back Jawon Hamilton will play his senior season following a 2019 where he accumulated 919 rushing yards and five touchdowns.

An early glance at JMU football's 2020 regular season schedule and how the Dukes' season could unfold

By **NOAH ZIEGLER**
The Breeze

With the 2019 college football season completed, teams are preparing for spring practices and the upcoming 2020 season. For programs like JMU, that means the beginning of getting back to the FCS National Championship in Frisco, Texas.

It's a long road to the title game at Toyota Stadium, and it's also one that tests teams to determine what they're capable of and what the expectations should be. For the Dukes, expectations will be high once again, but just as in 2019, they'll want the FCS trophy in the upcoming season.

In 2019, a three-game road stretch served as a benchmark to see how JMU would handle adversity under head coach Curt Cignetti, who was coaching his first games since being hired from Elon. Now, with a season of experience, Cignetti has the chance to further the program with a testy schedule.

CAA opener, non-con and UNC

The Dukes' 2020 campaign begins with a challenge. The defending FCS champions will start with a home CAA game against Delaware. The Blue Hens went 5-7 (3-5 CAA) in 2019 but return rising redshirt sophomore running back Will Knight, who averaged 7.4 yards per carry and posted 919 yards on the ground in 2019.

A CAA opponent can take down another on any given Saturday, something JMU isn't immune to. While Delaware will have to answer questions at quarterback and wide receiver, its ground game could catch the Dukes off guard in an early CAA contest.

Following the Blue Hens is the second leg of a home-and-home series with Chattanooga. The two teams faced in 2019 when JMU handled the Mocs 37-14, and now, they'll meet in Harrisonburg. Chattanooga finished 6-6 (5-3 Southern) last season, but with the home field advantage belonging to JMU this round, the Dukes should have no trouble finding a win.

The biggest test will come in Week 3 when JMU heads south to Chapel Hill, North Carolina, to face UNC. The Tar Heels are loaded with talent and are led by former BCS National Champion and head coach Mack Brown.

The Tar Heels boast rising sophomore quarterback Sam Howell, who's coming off a season where he boasted 3,641 passing yards, 38 touchdowns and seven interceptions. They'll also welcome defensive end Desmond Evans, the No. 2 overall prospect in the class of 2020 according to ESPN's Top 300 football recruits.

JMU will have its hands full against UNC, but it'll be a great benchmark for the remainder of the season. The last time the Dukes faced the Tar Heels was in 2016 — the same season JMU earned the program's second FCS title.

CAA play resumes

The road trip continues the next week as the Dukes head north to face Albany, who finished second in the CAA in 2019. Rising redshirt sophomore quarterback Jeff Undercuffler finished last season with 3,543 passing yards and 41 touchdowns. The Great Danes also return a 1,000-yard rusher in rising senior running back Karl Mofor, who ended his junior campaign with 1,290 yards and 10

scores.

Following the trip to New York, the Dukes return to Harrisonburg to host in-state rival William & Mary. JMU hasn't lost to the Tribe in Harrisonburg since 2004, the same year the Dukes won the program's first national championship.

Luckily for Cignetti and his team, the Dukes get a bye week after their bout with William & Mary. Then, it's on to Towson and Villanova, two teams that the Dukes spurned CAA title hopes for in 2019. With both of these away games in unfriendly environments, this will prove to be another tough test that'll define this JMU team and likely have conference championship implications.

Home stretch

Once JMU returns from Villanova, the Dukes will host Maine and Elon. The Black Bears haven't played at Bridgeforth Stadium since 2017, and the Phoenix will be returning for the first time since their 27-24 upset over JMU, which snapped the Dukes' 20-game conference win streak at the time.

Emotions will probably be high in both contests. JMU defensive coordinator Corey Hetherman came from Maine in 2018 when Cignetti was hired, and Elon will hope to replicate its upset. With the end of the regular season in sight, these games will potentially have a great effect on the CAA championship. They could also be solid resume boosters for the 2020 FCS Playoffs if both teams pose as threats.

The final two games of the 2020 regular season will see the Dukes face archrival Richmond on the road and Merrimack at home. The Spiders haven't given JMU much

trouble in the past two meetings — losing by a combined score of 111-16 — and Merrimack will be entering its second season playing Division-I football.

Final verdict

The Dukes don't have a three-game road trip, but they do have a five-game stretch that sees JMU traveling for four games. However, the Dukes get the luxury of a bye week during that period of games, meaning the rigorous travel schedule will be relaxed as the midst of the season continues.

Every CAA game will have a high risk of an upset. In 2018, it was Elon. In 2019, it was nearly Stony Brook until the Dukes prevailed in overtime. But, Cignetti battled through each test in his first season as head coach and brought his team to the cusp of a national championship.

JMU's biggest test is its game against UNC. The Dukes will be facing elite Power-Five talent and will show how high they can go in terms of competition. For FCS competition, Villanova is a team yearning to break through and win the CAA for the first time since 2012. In the penultimate away game for the regular season, it could also be a chance for JMU to stumble.

There are 219 days that separate JMU fans and the 2020 football season. Right now, Cignetti is planning how to return to Frisco and leave as champions, but he'll do that with a motto he's stuck with all of 2019: one day at a time.

CONTACT Noah Ziegler at breezesports@gmail.com. For more football coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.



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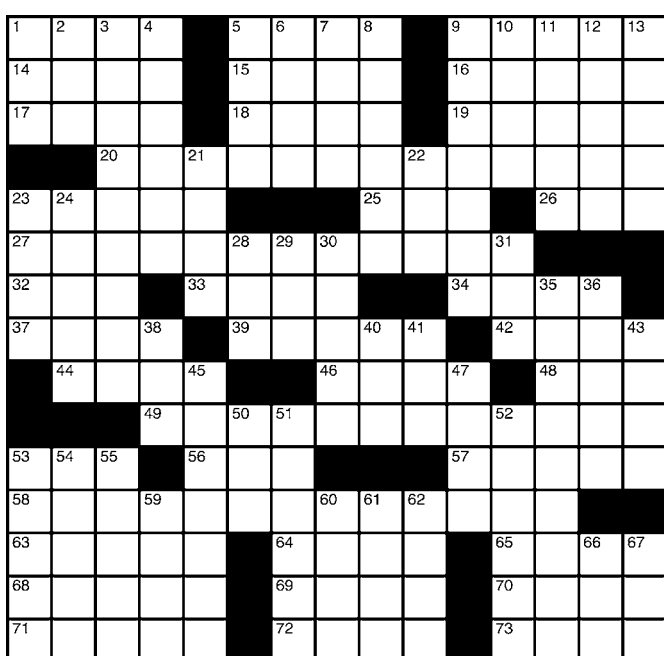


FOR RELEASE JANUARY 30, 2020

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Healthful berry
 - 5 Sommelier's concern
 - 9 San Antonio cagers
 - 14 Bananas
 - 15 "... the ___ blackness of the floors": Poe
 - 16 "The Fox and the Grapes" storyteller
 - 17 Dutch cheese
 - 18 Way to go
 - 19 Queen's milieu
 - 20 "That's fine"
 - 23 Get going
 - 25 "Knives Out" Golden Globe nominee de Armas
 - 26 Lansing-to-Flint dir.
 - 27 "That's all folks"
 - 32 1960s chess champ Mikhail
 - 33 Mustard family member
 - 34 They're tapped
 - 37 Bundle
 - 39 On the money
 - 42 Kentucky coach with 876 victories
 - 44 Foolhardy
 - 46 ___ avis
 - 48 Mex. title
 - 49 "That's not the point"
 - 53 Withdrawal site
 - 56 Carnival city
 - 57 Words before "so sue me"
 - 58 "That's rich"
 - 63 Polynesian language
 - 64 Sitar music
 - 65 Yemen's Gulf of ___
 - 68 Conclude with
 - 69 Indicator
 - 70 Feet-first race
 - 71 Video chat choice
 - 72 "What ___ is new?"
 - 73 MP3 player
- DOWN**
- 1 Cream ___
 - 2 Fish that's salted and dried to make bacalao
 - 3 Like Pentatonix numbers
 - 4 Flying insect with prominent eyespots
 - 5 Bookish type
 - 6 Wind up on stage?
 - 7 Fly like an eagle
 - 8 Win over
 - 9 Hapless sort
 - 10 Ucayali River country
 - 11 Grammarian's concern
 - 12 Type type
 - 13 Just-in-case item
 - 21 "The Caine Mutiny" novelist
 - 22 Paternity identifier
 - 23 Web address letters
 - 24 Atheist activist Madalyn
 - 28 Deface
 - 29 "When We Were Kings" boxer
 - 30 Pola of the silents
 - 31 Poetic contraction
 - 35 Dressed to the nines
 - 36 Wild period
 - 38 Uncommon sense
 - 40 Actor Holbrook
 - 41 Amount past due?
 - 43 Ranch bud
 - 45 Wonder Woman, for one
 - 47 Plot-driving song, perhaps
 - 50 Zilch
 - 51 Rough around the edges
 - 52 High-pH compound
 - 53 Summits
 - 54 "___ goodness"
 - 55 Temperamental
 - 59 Edit for size, as a photo
 - 60 Follow
 - 61 Confident juggler's props
 - 62 Candy ___
 - 66 It may need a boost
 - 67 Flanders who inspired the band Okilly Dokilly

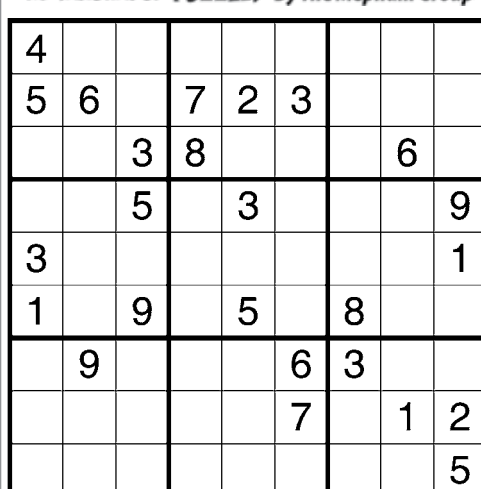


By Dan Margolis 1/30/20

Find crossword and sudoku answers at breezejmu.org

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3 4

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