

# The Breeze

JMU'S AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER SINCE 1922

## Full Scale

JMU student researches  
South American reptiles

**NEWS | 4**

## Massive Disappointment

"Mulan" deserves to  
be boycotted

**OPINION | 12**

## Fitness at home?

UREC stays connected  
with students  
with online workouts

**SPORTS | 19**



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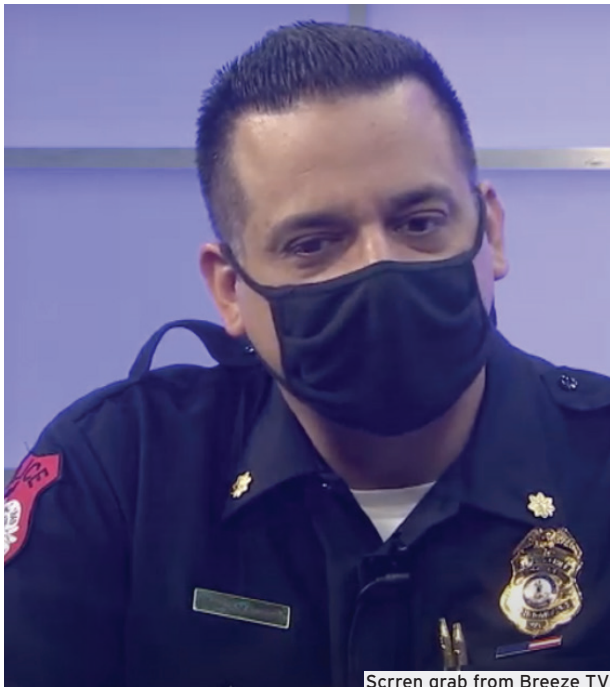
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HARRISONBURG REACTS TO  
NEW INTERIM POLICE CHIEF

**OPINION 11 NO THANKS, JMU**  
COVID-19 NUMBERS WILL  
LIKELY INCREASE AS STUDENTS  
RETURN TO CAMPUS

**CULTURE 14 LIFE IN COLOR**  
PROFESSIONAL PAINTER  
DEDICATES CAREER TO ART

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### MISSION

*The Breeze*, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student, faculty and staff readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. *The Breeze* strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes in First Amendment rights.

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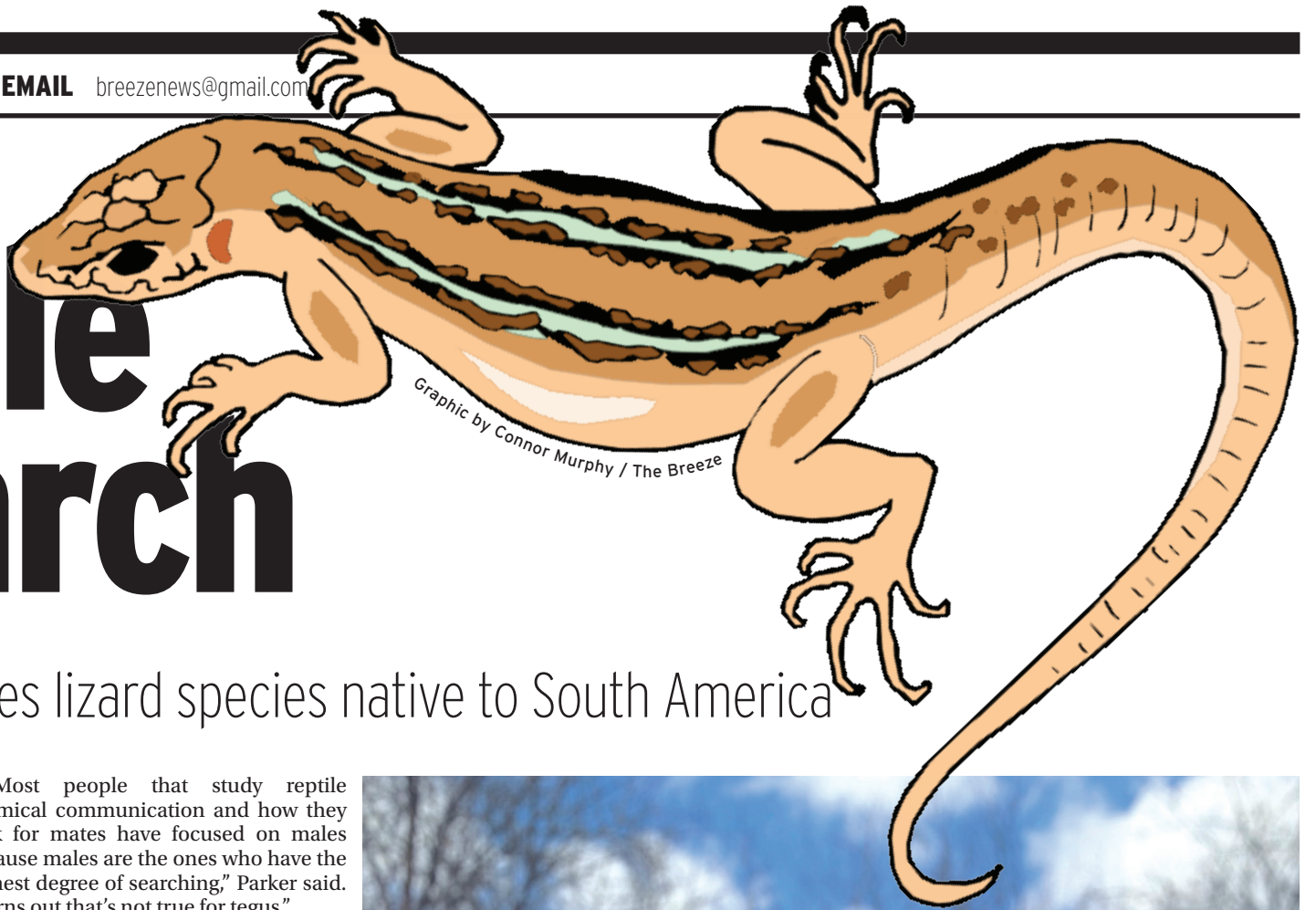
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# NEWS

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# Reptile research



JMU student researches lizard species native to South America

By **KAMRYN KOCH**  
The Breeze

For hours, senior biology major Isabella Bukovich watched lizards in a maze. The observations she made helped her meet the goal of her research — to solve the problem of the invasive black and white tegu lizard species that’s threatening native bird and reptile species in Florida and Georgia.

Bukovich wasn’t always exposed to herpetofauna — amphibians and reptiles — or “herps” for short. It wasn’t until her family moved from Alaska to Virginia when she was 10, she said, that she became interested in snakes and lizards.

“That passion started when I was really young,” Bukovich said. “I was always just going outside in the woods catching and collecting snakes, frogs and lizards and studying them.”

Bukovich said her interest in biology brought her to JMU because the university offers many research opportunities for undergraduate students. She said she’s worked with other students and biology professor Rocky Parker in the “Parker lab” on several different projects. This includes her tegu lizard research, which was published Aug. 12 with her as a co-lead author in the peer-reviewed journal PLOS ONE.

Argentine black and white tegus are native to South America but have invaded the southern U.S. because of exotic animal breeders and people who keep them as pets. They’re omnivores that generally grow to 3 or 4 feet long, and Bukovich said they’re great at finding eggs, which threatens native species that have lower nesting grounds.

Bukovich’s research explored the chemical ecology of tegus — specifically their ability to recognize members of the same species. Parker said a collaborative grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture allowed his lab to partner with the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) in Florida for this research. The NWRC sent videos of tegus in Y-mazes that Bukovich observed, and she identified the tegus’ specific behaviors like tongue flicks, pauses and turns. Bukovich said she discovered that female tegus are better than males at identifying conspecific scents or scents belonging to the same species.

“Most people that study reptile chemical communication and how they look for mates have focused on males because males are the ones who have the highest degree of searching,” Parker said. “Turns out that’s not true for tegus.”

The research she conducted, Bukovich said, can help manage the tegu problem because it could aid in informing and creating capture methods. She said she’s working with junior biology major Lauren Nazarian on similar research about Burmese pythons, which are also invading Florida. Because they’re similarly analyzing behavioral data of Burmese pythons in Y-mazes, Nazarian said Bukovich’s guidance has been helpful because of her prior experience studying the tegus.

“Isabella deserves every bit of recognition and praise that she gets,” Nazarian said. “She’s incredibly detail-oriented, focused and I think one of the most hardworking people I’ve ever met.”

Nazarian said the students in the Parker lab have made it into a “welcoming environment” that values teamwork. Senior biology major Emily Thompson, another Parker lab member, said she’s known Bukovich since their freshman year. She said they’ve grown together as scientists and she’s proud to see Bukovich’s success.

“We’ve been reading papers about snakes and tegus all of college, and now there’s one with her name on it,” Thompson said. “That’s crazy to me.”

Her discovery didn’t come without difficulty. Bukovich said many of the original analyses had to be redone because they were wrong. However, she said the research taught her the importance of the integrity of scientific data, which she said made her a “better scientist overall.”

Bukovich is continuing to work on the Burmese python research, she said, in addition to research on red-sided garter snakes for her honors thesis. She said she plans to graduate this semester.

“Seeing her graduate is going to be really hard for me,” Parker said. “I don’t think I’ll ever have a student like her.”

**CONTACT** Kamryn Koch at [kochkr@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:kochkr@dukes.jmu.edu). For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



Bukovich poses with a handful of red-sided garter snakes. Courtesy of Isabella Bukovich

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Thursday, September 24, 2020

# THERE'S A NEW CHIEF IN TOWN

“I look at policing as a marathon, not a race. We should be at all meetings and be active participants in the community.”

**Gabriel Camacho**

Harrisonburg's interim police chief



Camacho said he wants to provide resources to the Hispanic community. Courtesy of City of Harrisonburg

## Gabriel Camacho takes over for former Police Chief Eric English

By **ELEANOR WEBER**  
*The Breeze*

Over the last 25 years, Gabriel Camacho has been involved in policing in Camden, New Jersey, before coming to Harrisonburg. Earlier this month, Camacho officially stepped into the role of Harrisonburg's interim police chief Sept. 12.

Since he started working for the community in December 2019, Camacho said he's looking forward to his role of serving the community in the years to come.

In an interview with Breeze TV, Camacho said working in Harrisonburg over the past year under police chief Eric English was different from working in Camden because it's a smaller city with different issues, but he said he feels prepared to serve in his new role.

"Once I started to look at the city and how remarkable and amazing it is, I just fell in love with it," Camacho said.

Camacho said that he plans to continue the practices of the police force here and to focus on better technology, accountability and training in the Harrisonburg police force. He said that Integrated Communications, Assessment and Tactics, or ICAT, training

will be implemented that focuses on de-escalation tactics.

"I wouldn't say there is going to be some huge change that occurs but we are always going to strive to be better," Camacho said.

In a press release by the City of Harrisonburg, City Manager Eric Campbell said that Camacho will bring a mix of "experience and professionalism" to the community and will "remain motivated and dedicated to making Harrisonburg a better place for all who call it home."

Already, Camacho has proved to be a leader in taking steps to further community engagement. Camacho said that he especially wanted to provide resources to the Hispanic community, and he's helped create a Facebook page for them so they get the information they need.

"I look at policing as a marathon, not a race," Camacho said, "We should be at all meetings and be active participants in the community. Policing is to have that constant pulse with the community. You can't have it from behind a desk, you have to constantly be out there with the community."

On another hand, some Harrisonburg

residents appear skeptical as to what Camacho may delegate his time to. Monica Robinson, president of the NAACP of Harrisonburg, said that she wished the interview focused more on bigger issues that were happening in the city like homelessness and mental health.

"I was shocked that there was really no comment about the unrest that's happening here," Robinson said. "We have a lot of unrest at the rallies here when compared to rallies nationwide. The level of unrest in a small town [like Harrisonburg] is something that draws a red flag."

Robinson also mentioned homelessness and the mental health crisis Harrisonburg is facing and said that the relations between the homeless and the police often "border on harassment." She wants to make sure that there's a place for the homeless to be present at community engagement meetings.

"I don't just mean an agency for [the homeless] either," Robinson said. "That's the same thing with Black history from white eyes. I can't tell you what it's like to be homeless, so I need someone from that community to get a clearer perspective on what they need."

Just because you don't see homelessness with your own eyes doesn't mean you can be ignorant of its existence."

Taking community issues into consideration, Robinson said that there should be more committee boards within each district and police members assigned to handle each issue. She said she wants Camacho to be involved in improving conditions for all people in the city.

"We have to do a better job with community, and we have to do a better job with accountability because by the time the true message goes from the smaller committees to where they need to be, it's often too late," Robinson said. "There needs to be a conversation occurring that says 'Let's move [toward] this and decide what needs to be happening and who needs to be at the table.'"

**CONTACT** Eleanor Weber at [weber@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:weber@dukes.jmu.edu). For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



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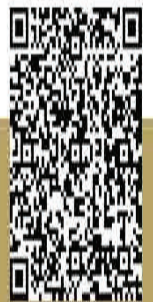
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# BACK IN SESSION

## Elementary School reopens after temporary COVID-19 closure

Spotswood Elementary School reopened Sept. 21, but not all students immediately returned. Graphic by Connor Murphy / The Breeze

By **ASHLYN CAMPBELL**  
contributing writer

**S**potswood Elementary School closed early last week because of three possible COVID-19 cases among the staff. As of Sept. 23, only one of the three tests conducted has been positive.

In a letter to parents of in-person students on the Spotswood Elementary School website, Deb Cook, the principal of Spotswood Elementary, wrote that an employee with probable COVID-19 symptoms and two employees with possible symptoms came forward on Sept. 13. The letter states that the Harrisonburg City Public Schools' central office and the Virginia Department of Health advised Spotswood to close for seven days while they waited for more information on the possible cases.

While the school was closed, in-person

students were expected to continue their online learning, the letter states.

"We ask our staff to have open and honest conversations about what's going on health-wise," Cook said. "Once the information got to me from that person, I then passed it on directly to our chief operating officer ... and then from there we just work in tandem through [the chief operating officer], through Dr. Richards as well working with the Virginia Department of Health."

Michael Richards, the division superintendent, said that the first employee to notice symptoms did the "right thing" by staying home when they began feeling sick earlier in the week. On Sept. 13, that employee reported that their doctor believed they had COVID-19 and were going to be tested, Richards said.

That employee's test came back positive.

Richards said HCPS has two protocols focused on stopping the spread of the coronavirus, which are mitigation and

containment.

"Mitigation, that's where we have mandatory mask requirements, we've got social distancing going on, hygiene ... washing hands, practicing good sneezing and coughing ... and of course cleaning and sterilization of schools," Richards said. "That's when you're trying to prevent cases."

Richards said Spotswood went into containment protocol Sept. 13 when the probable case of COVID-19 was reported.

"Containment is really about contact tracing and testing and also advice from the medical community," Richards said.

Richards said the Central Shenandoah Health Department began contact tracing after the positive test was received. This helped determine the next set of steps for opening the school, Richards said.

"If the contact tracing shows that the first employee [that] was positive was in one classroom ... we would then quarantine everyone in that classroom for 14 days and

open the rest of the school, so that kind of gives you an example of potential next steps," Richards said.

This is the second time HCPS has used a containment protocol.

"We had to do it once at the central office, and we're doing it now at Spotswood," Richards said. "In the case of the central office, we had two employees test positive over the summer, and given the nature of the work in the central office, the next step in that case was to close the office down for two weeks ... Each case is different."

Cook said the school reopened Sept. 21, although not all in-person students would return to the classroom immediately.

"Out of preponderance of caution, we had two classrooms in which we had face-to-face students ... we've asked them to remain quarantined, those individuals, because the individuals were working within that space," Cook said. "So those classrooms are coming back online on Thursday."

Cook said that her faculty and staff are enthusiastic about returning to the classroom.

"I think that we're excited ... there is a little bit of trepidation as well because everything is new and unknown," Cook said "But I know that many of our teachers are choosing to work from their classrooms even though their students are virtual, and they were excited to have an opportunity to be back in an instructional space that allows them to be present for their kids."

Richards emphasized the importance of following the protocols that HCPS has put in place when dealing with the coronavirus for the rest of the school year. He said that they must continue to move forward every day and make the best decision with the data they have.

"In a place like Harrisonburg, right now where the community transmission level is very high, I don't think it's unusual to have a case," Richards said. "I think what's important is that you do exercise the research based containment strategies, which we're doing, and that's how you keep people safe."

**CONTACT** Ashlyn Campbell at [campbeab@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:campbeab@dukes.jmu.edu). For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



The school closed because of three possible COVID-19 cases among staff members. Matthew Young / The Breeze



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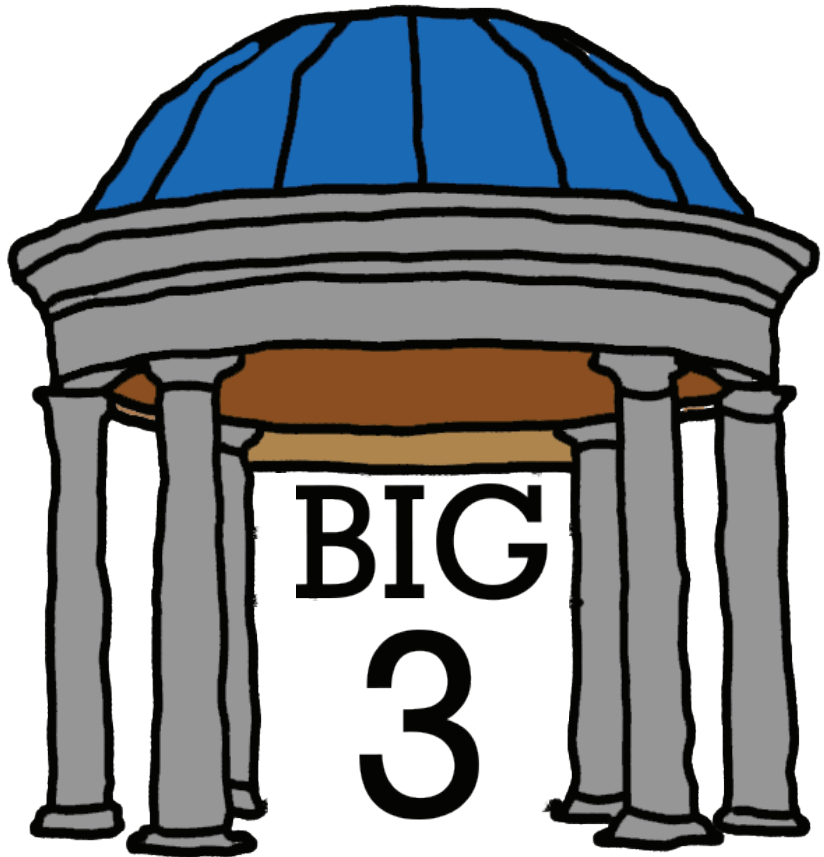
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# THIS WEEK'S



## FROM CITY COUNCIL

By **MAGGIE RICKERBY**  
contributing writer

During the virtual Harrisonburg City Council meeting Sept. 22, Mayor Deanna Reed, along with the council discussed important issues arising in the community. Here are the three takeaways.

### Updates on the CARES Act Advisory Task Force

On Aug. 25, 2020, the Harrisonburg City Council created the CARES Act Advisory Task Force.

At the city council meeting Sept. 22, the Deputy City Manager Ande Banks provided updates on behalf of the task force. Three meetings have taken place from Sept. 3-10 discussing community needs, reviewing the CARES Act and prioritizing funding.

Banks proposed a funding plan to support community needs such as economic stabilization, thriving education, social security and community health.

The funding plan was broken down into three tiers of categories in which the four community needs listed above fell under with more specific subgroups. The total amount of funding for all three tiers in the funding plan equaled \$2,770,000. The city council approved the plan and decided to move forward with the distribution of funds to aid community needs.

### EMU and JMU COVID-19 Progress and Updates

EMU President Susan Schultz Huxman said that EMU has worked closely with other colleges in the area, such as JMU, Bridgewater and Blue Ridge Community College, during the pandemic as well as the Council of Independent Colleges of Virginia. Huxman said communication with the CICV has been ongoing and open.

"We regularly share what are we doing, why are we doing it, what's working, what's not," Huxman said.

EMU began the fall semester with online

classes Aug. 25 because of three of the 24 student community assistants, who were undergoing extra training a week before the semester, contracting COVID-19.

On Sept. 3, EMU began in-person classes using a high flex modality, which Huxman explained as, "all online and all in person at the same time." Students and faculty were provided options as to what method of learning or teaching they were comfortable with. As a result, 100 EMU students decided to go fully online for their learning experience.

As of Sept. 22, Huxman announced that the university has two active cases of COVID-19, and seven students in quarantine. Huxman also explained that there are a total of 25 offsite quarantine rooms and 26 onsite isolation beds. Additionally, several students are already living in single rooms.

Huxman said she believes the low amount of COVID-19 cases is largely a result of protocols put in place at EMU, such as prohibiting students to eat in the dining halls and instead requiring that students eat outside or in a separate room, grab-and-go options at the dining halls and the already expected rules of wearing masks, social distancing and washing hands.

Additionally, Huxman spoke about requiring students and staff every day to use the Mediat Symptom Tracker which asks two questions: "Have you been around somebody that you know has been tested positive?" and "Are you experiencing one of four symptoms?" If the staff or student answers yes to either question, they must call the university's health center for further action.

Finally, EMU has looked for more testing possibilities, which Huxman said has been their "achilles heel" during the pandemic because of test availability, cost of tests and slow results of tests. EMU is hoping for testing options that have faster results.

Three representatives were present from JMU at the City Council meeting: President Alger, Vice President for Student Affairs Tim Miller and Interim Director of Medical Services Kristina Blyer.

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**FOLLOW THE MANIA**







Breeze's daily public COVID-19 dashboard. Alger claims that most students who've contracted the virus are either asymptomatic or have mild symptoms, and few have required further care than a COVID-19 test. Additionally, the majority of students who've contracted the virus now fall under the "recovered" category on The Breeze's dashboard.

Alger said JMU has a commitment to transparency and monitoring through the JMU public dashboard, which includes self-reports of positive COVID-19 tests.

"That inclusion of self-reports makes our numbers higher than those you see on the other dashboards, which lists only students that a particular institution has tested," Alger said.

JMU's decision to bring students back to campus Oct. 5 was guided by the fact that 85% of students are still on campus. Alger said that because JMU has a greater ability to monitor behavior and require testing, there'll be no significant impact when students return on the amount of COVID-19 cases because most students are already on campus, and students have expressed concerns with internet connection and stable home environments.

Miller addressed the concern of student behavior and said, "The vast majority of students have listened to that and have been doing the right things, but some have not."

He also said that there have been 290 violations of protocols, and 45 students have been held responsible. Also, there are currently five cases of students throwing large events who'll face future consequences. The consequences of breaking protocols can include being sent

home regardless of a staying on campus exemption, suspension, expulsion and more.

In regard to quarantine space, JMU has approximately 2,000 room capacity with on-campus and off-campus areas. Additionally, E-hall and D-hall have carryout options, and Starship robots can deliver food to students in their dorms. Most public places on campus have required students to show their completion of the LiveSafe app to ensure the student has no symptoms of COVID-19.

Miller announced that JMU will have surveillance testing where 300 students a week will be randomly selected for mandatory COVID-19 testing at the University Health Center. The students selected will receive an email on Tuesdays stating they've been picked and will be tested the following Monday. Students that've already tested positive for COVID-19 will be exempt from the random testing because the virus can live in the body for 30-90 days after testing positive.

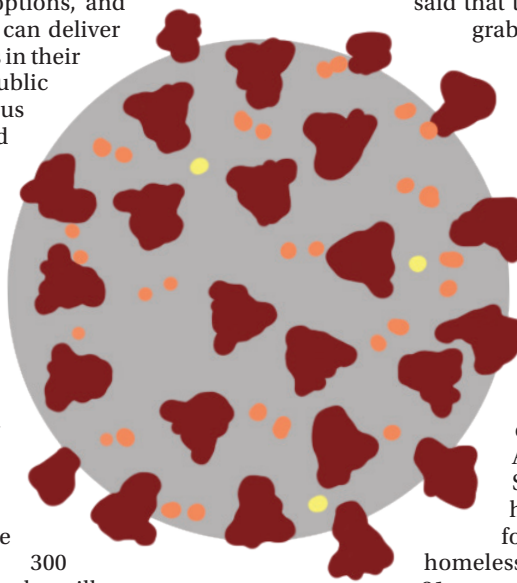
Finally, Alger addressed concerns that returning students to campus was a "money grab."

"That kind of mythology is out there, but if that were the case, we wouldn't have shut down so quickly in the face of a public health emergency," Alger said.

Alger said that JMU was "very generous"

with refunds last semester. These refunds cost the university "many millions of dollars," which happened again this fall.

"We have spent a huge amount of money on all of the things that we're talking about with testing and quarantine and isolation and additional staff," Alger said. He also said that this is "far from a money grab and quite the opposite."



**Emergency Ordinance Homeless Shelter**

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, it's not possible for the Open Doors homeless shelter organization to provide many shelters for homeless Harrisonburg residents during the fall season. A church located at 315 South Dogwood Drive has offered its facilities for Open Doors to create a homeless shelter from Oct. 1-Dec. 31.

The location hadn't been approved for a shelter, and therefore the City Council was asked for permission for the shelter to temporarily exist there.

However, as stated in the City Charter, the City Council is enabled to "secure the inhabitants of the city from contagious, infectious, or other dangerous diseases."

The use of the church was approved for use as a temporary homeless shelter.

"We're in this together," Reed said. "We're going to be good neighbors and stand by each other and do what we're supposed to do."

**CONTACT** Maggie Rickerby at rickermk@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

"We monitor developments literally every day; we start every morning with a briefing with our medical team," Alger said.

Furthermore, when cases rose at the beginning of the school year, Alger said he and his team worked "quickly and decisively to stop the spread."

"All of our decisions were guided by medical experts and in consultation with our public health officials," Alger said

After temporarily putting classes fully online and de-densifying the JMU campus for four weeks, the university began to see a drop in cases, which is apparent on The



Harrisonburg residents enjoy downtown while following the city's COVID-19 guidelines. Tristan Lorei / The Breeze



**Want to praise someone or get something off your chest? Darts & Pats is the place to do it. Submit your own at breezejmu.org.**

An **"are-you-happy-now?"** dart to the people who reproduced and created any of the parking services employees.

*From someone who's life would be much better without all of them.*

A sarcastic **"second-time's-the-charm!"** dart to JMU for trying to put us back in in-person classes.

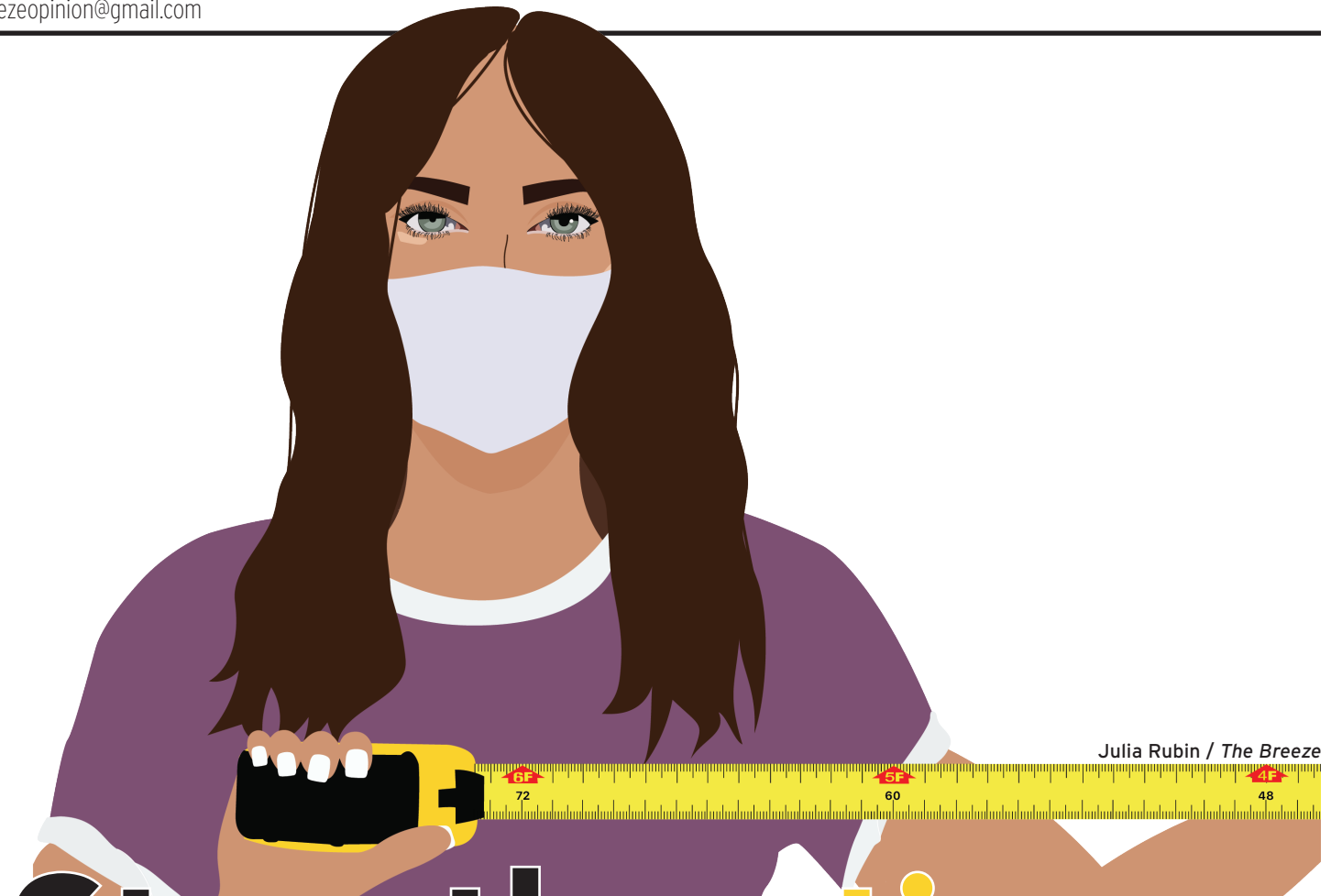
*From someone who's now participating in a bet concerning my own health.*

A **"the-world-sucks"** dart to the world for sucking at all times. Seriously, can it even get any worse?

*From someone who is now actively ignoring their rapidly declining mental health.*

A **"happy-for-the-little-things"** pat to my friends and our groupchat, which is miraculously always active.

*From someone who enjoys ignoring school work in favor of doing a bunch of Buzzfeed quizzes with my friends.*



Julia Rubin / The Breeze

# Stop the stigma

Just because someone gets COVID-19 doesn't mean they were out partying and endangering others

**JOSIE HANEKLAU** | open outlook



Clearly, JMU didn't make it far in its fall semester reopening plans. According to the Breeze's COVID-19 Dashboard, cases reached over 1,000 strong within the first week of classes.

With an overwhelming number of students who've gotten sick and who'll continue to become sick after coming back to JMU, a stigma of irresponsibility and shamefulness is often placed on those who've been infected.

The American image of a college student is someone who frequents bars, hosts gatherings and wants to party. While this image doesn't nearly encompass every university student, oftentimes, college towns are indeed home to this kind of culture. If one thing is certain about COVID-19, large gatherings are a key factor in its spread.

The irresponsible group of students who throw house parties during COVID-19 haven't been avoided at JMU. Social media is often flooded with students complaining about their peers or neighbors hosting large

gatherings. One Instagram account, JMU Missed Connections, posts anonymous messages from users speaking out about this very issue. One user said, "Saw 3 parties happening ... and there were at least 100 people between 3 houses..."

Like in any demographic, there are college students who are reckless about COVID-19 safety precautions. Yet, this certainly doesn't mean that every college student contracting COVID-19 has been irresponsible. While this might seem obvious, many students face backlash from their community and peers after contracting the coronavirus.

One student who's recovered from COVID-19 said that some of their peers immediately looked down on them by assuming they were acting irresponsibly, when that wasn't the case at all. "I followed every precaution in the book ... and ... I don't know," they said. "We're in a global pandemic, and I somehow got sick along the way. I didn't do anything 'wrong.'"

The reality is, JMU as an institution chose to reopen its doors for the fall semester. JMU chose to call students back, chose to move freshmen into tight quarters, chose to not enforce strict distancing policies on campus and chose to take a massive health risk to the JMU population and the Harrisonburg community. There's no doubt that these

factors weren't a driving force in the rapid spread of COVID-19 on campus. A student simply shopping at the JMU bookstore may've contracted COVID-19 and may be facing serious backlash from their peers for being "reckless."

The CDC offers information about reducing stigma related to COVID-19. Its website specifically lists that those who've contracted or recovered from the coronavirus are at risk of being stigmatized.

This stigma stems from many avenues but specifically from people feeling the need to blame someone. Most importantly, the website states that stigmatizing the coronavirus can lead those infected to not seek immediate medical care because of feared backlash.

In general, many college students are struggling. They might be faced with daunting online classes or the inability to make enough money to support themselves. The last thing they need is the mental strain of facing community backlash for contracting COVID-19. Contracting the virus is something that can happen to anyone — even those taking precautions against it.

**Josie Haneklau is a junior political science and psychology double major. Contact Josie at hanekljr@dukes.jmu.edu.**

## Editorial Policies

The Breeze  
1598 S. Main Street  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

The Breeze welcomes and encourages readers to voice their opinions through letters and guest columns. Letters must be no longer than 250 words. Guest columns must be no more than 650 words.

The Breeze reserves the right to edit submissions for length, grammar and if material is libelous, factually inaccurate or unclear. The Breeze assumes the rights to any published work. Opinions expressed in this page, with the exception of editorials, are not necessarily those of The Breeze or its staff.

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.



COVID-19 numbers will spike once again with students returning to in-person classes, not to mention students have already grown accustomed to online learning. Breeze File Photo

# Sorry, JMU wants us to *what?*

Students returning to in-person classes is JMU's second-worst decision, right behind having in-person classes in the first place

**CHARLOTTE MATHERLY** | conscious contemplation



Every student got the email — the one that told them they'd be returning to campus Oct. 5.

Some may have felt excited and hopeful. It's no secret that online courses just don't

measure up to in-person learning. It can be difficult to stay motivated and focused on coursework when there's no class schedule to structure one's day and provide social interaction.

However, many Dukes may have felt upset when they opened that email. It seems that JMU has once again chosen to attempt in-person classes despite the failures that have received criticism from the student body as well as national attention from Anthony Fauci and publications like the Washington Post.

JMU shouldn't return to in-person classes. The administration's newest COVID-19 reopening plan, which was sent out to students Sept. 18, is only marginally better than the original precautions it took.

The university has also received criticism, especially from students, regarding its lack of commitment to enforcing the protections it advertised. To understand why JMU is unprepared to return to in-person classes, one must look no further than the first five days of the fall semester.

## What went wrong?

In the initial plan to return to campus that was sent out July 20, JMU made many promises that it failed to keep. For example, it was made clear to students that any gatherings consisting of more than 10 people would be prohibited. Masks would be required everywhere on campus and social distancing would be enforced.

When students arrived on campus, this wasn't the case. Throughout FROG week and into the first week of classes, multiple large gatherings took place on campus — several of which violated the city of Harrisonburg's

ordinance that most gatherings, with few exceptions, must be limited to 50 people.

Ryan Ritter ('22), a senator in JMU's Student Government Association, posted a viral Twitter thread chronicling the precautions JMU said would be taken versus what actually happened. In the thread, Ritter mentioned that JMU had hosted multiple outdoor movie nights with up to 250 students at once, with many violating the mask mandate.

The dining halls seemed to be one of the largest issues with JMU's reopening plan. Social distancing wasn't enforced. Dukes were permitted to sit at large tables together to eat, and while tables were slightly pushed apart, the new setup did nothing to combat the virus.

In the July 20 email that announced the return to campus, JMU said daily completion of the LiveSafe app would be enforced and checked at the door to most buildings and classrooms. This didn't happen.

Few students, if any, were required to show the green checkmark as a result of their "all clear" from the LiveSafe app, and many students seemed to disregard the app altogether.

Classrooms weren't constructed in a way that promoted social distancing. Most classrooms had every other chair roped off, which provided a distance of 3 feet at the most. Hand sanitizer was available at the

door of most classrooms, but the promised two boxes of extra disposable masks for each room seemed to be forgotten.

## What about the new plan?

JMU's new plan to reopen, while marginally better, doesn't address many of the shortcomings of the previous plan.

The university said in the Sept. 18 email that it's "tripled" its isolation and quarantine beds, and a boost in testing materials has been acquired through partnership with a "third-party testing company."

According to the email, JMU is launching a mandatory testing program to get ahead of potential outbreaks. Three hundred random, asymptomatic students will be tested each week. However, one has to wonder: How will they enforce this? Should students be forced to be tested, and will they be punished if they refuse testing?

The university has also promised to limit classes to 50 people. However, it makes no assurance that social distancing will be easier or even possible, and it's provided no other protections for class settings besides roped off seats and hand sanitizer available for those who think to use it.

JMU's administration decided to cancel fall break to minimize travel and switch classes back to an online format after Thanksgiving

break. This decision is a smart one and will hopefully keep students who choose to remain on campus safe and healthy after Thanksgiving break, but a safer decision would be to keep classes online throughout the entire semester.

The email also said the Office of Student Accountability and Restorative Practices (OSARP) is reviewing over 250 complaints regarding students not following guidelines or hosting large gatherings. JMU must expedite these cases in order to protect students. If the most defiant and careless acts of students aren't dealt with immediately, it could cause students to further lose faith in the administration and ultimately put the entire community at risk.

## Remaining online is the safest solution

In reviewing JMU's former and current reopening plans, one may find that the most daunting challenge the university faces is its inability to implement and enforce its promises to the student body.

Dukes may feel uncertain or even scared to return to campus after the monumental failure this fall. With continuing indecision and many upended plans this past month, JMU has lost the trust of its students. The university's actions that seem to have prioritized its own financial well-being over the health and safety of its students has caused many Dukes to lose faith in their beloved JMU.

Many people understand that the times they're living in are difficult. Most would probably love to return to campus and enjoy all that JMU has to offer, but the pandemic hasn't allowed for that.

For JMU to reclaim the confidence of its students, classes must remain online. For JMU to regain Dukes' trust, the university must recognize that life can't go back to normal until definitive and substantive community action is taken to beat COVID-19.

Charlotte Matherly is a junior media arts & design major. Contact Charlotte at [mathercg@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:mathercg@dukes.jmu.edu).



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# Great in theory... ...terrible in execution



“Mulan” doesn’t deserve to be watched because of the atrocities its creators support

**JULIA CHENG** | contributing writer



As an Asian American, I was initially excited to hear that Disney was creating a live-action “Mulan” film. Being able to see someone who looks like me in the entertainment industry is amazing, and I was thrilled to see “Mulan” in the spotlight. After watching the other Disney Princess live-action films, I couldn’t wait to see my favorite princess on screen again. However, once released, controversy surrounding the film made me question if I should even watch it.

Back in 2019, Liu Yifei, the actress of the character Mulan, expressed her opinion on the Hong Kong protests. These protests began because of the extradition bill that gave China more power over Hong Kong, threatening the freedoms of activists and journalists.

“I support the Hong Kong police. You can all attack me now. What a shame for Hong Kong,” Yifei said. With Yifei being the star of the movie, watching the film indirectly supports the abuse of power China holds.

During the protests, many faced injuries as a result of police violence. On Oct. 1, 2019, a protester was shot with a live bullet when, previously, protesters were shot with rubber bullets. Additionally, 66 were injured after police used tear gas. The protests went viral around the world, with the creation of artwork depicting the events and videos of violence.

Along with Yifei’s controversial statement, the movie was revealed to be filmed in the Xinjiang province, where Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities are held at “re-education camps.” Since 2017, at least 1 million Uyghurs have been detained,

and they’re forced to renounce their religion, face abuse and held in horrific circumstances with forced labor. In the credits of the film, Disney went on to thank a Chinese government agency that threatens human rights of Uyghurs.

In addition to the brutal conditions Uyghur Muslims face, they’re also separated from their families. As a company that’s known for being family-friendly, Disney’s actions are hypocritical. It’s clear that it’s willing to put human lives at stake for profit.

On various social media platforms, the ‘#banmulan’ and ‘#boycottmulan’ hashtags have trended. On Twitter, users have populated the hashtag with videos of police brutality in Hong Kong, and users from other countries show their support to boycott the film as it makes its way into theaters and Disney+.

“In the credits of the film, Disney went on to thank a Chinese government agency that threatens human rights of Uyghurs.”

**Julia Cheng**  
Opinion Writer

Controversy in Asia isn’t the only problem with the movie. Disney+ subscribers complained about the additional \$30 fee and the differences from the original animation.

Disney+ already costs \$8 a month, and “Mulan” was announced to be free on Dec. 4. Additionally, because Disney changed the original story from its animated film, Disney+ subscribers are less inclined to watch the film, especially because it lacks the musical numbers, and characters Mushu and Li Shang were removed. Disney+ users have also compared the unreasonable

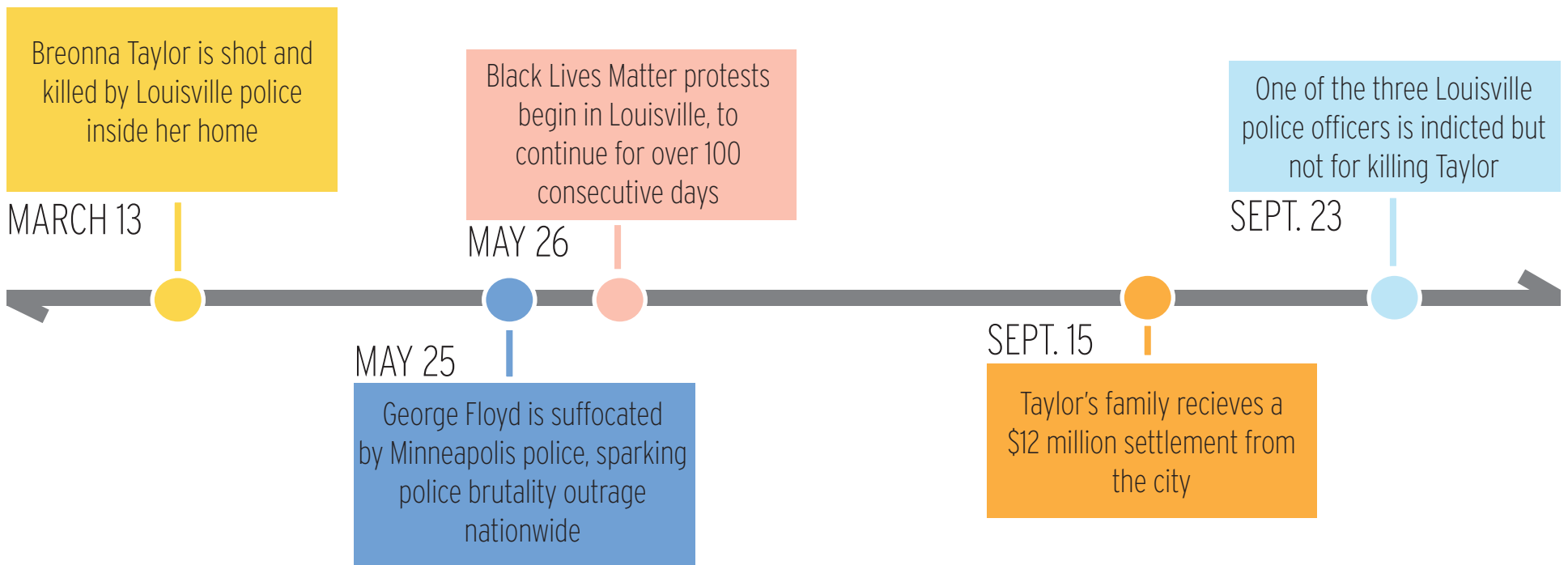
price of “Mulan” to “Black is King,” which was free, and to the price of regular movie tickets.

With all the hate and criticism it’s receiving, Disney should release a statement regarding Yifei’s actions and the location of filming. It’d be better for Disney to face the disapproval and recognize its wrongdoings than to continue on in silence.

Julia Cheng is a freshman media arts and design major. Contact Julia at [chengjm@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:chengjm@dukes.jmu.edu).

Even without a controversy, the live-action still wouldn’t be worth watching. Courtesy of Tribune News Service

# BREONNA TAYLOR TIMELINE



By **JILLIAN CAREY**  
*The Breeze*

After the terrible way Breonna Taylor was killed, followed by months of protests against police brutality, everyone deserves some good news.

For months, social media users have rallied for justice for Taylor, reminding one another that the police officers who killed her had yet to be arrested.

On Tuesday, an announcement was made that a decision regarding the matter

was forthcoming. In Louisville, city officials closed down more than a 25-block perimeter to traffic as the city was placed under a state of emergency, according to Courier Journal.

But the announcement made on Wednesday afternoon wasn't exactly a good one.

It's true that Brett Hankison, one of the three officers present in Taylor's home March 13, was indicted, but not for killing Taylor. He was charged with three counts of first-degree wanton endangerment for Taylor's neighbors, a charge that carries a

penalty of one to five years in prison.

The other two officers weren't indicted at all. None of the officers were punished for Taylor's death.

So many Black Americans have been killed senselessly. Having the officers who killed Taylor arrested would've felt like a victory to those that have begged for justice and marching for their voices to be heard.

These officers getting off nearly scot-free feels like just another blow, another straw on the already-broken camel's back.

Police officers need to face consequences for their actions. Black voices need to be amplified and heard, especially by those in positions in power. The longer these issues continue without change, the harder they'll be to overcome.

The protesters who gathered at the Jefferson Square Park as the announcement was made said it best: "No justice, no peace."

Jillian Carey is a junior media arts and design major. Contact Jillian at [breezeopinion@gmail.com](mailto:breezeopinion@gmail.com).

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Thursday, September 24, 2020

## Passion in *creation*

Local artist reflects on growing arts culture in Harrisonburg

By WILL ROBERTS  
contributing writer

Imagine being 10 years old. The teacher announces to the rest of the fifth grade class that tomorrow, everyone can dress up as who they want to be when they grow up. Some kids may dress up as firefighters, a couple as astronauts and others as doctors.

"You dressed up as what you want to be, and I dressed up as an artist," Erin Murray, local artist and JMU professor, said.

At this moment she found her path — one that she's remained on her whole life.

Murray completed her undergraduate studies at William & Mary in 2006. In that time, she pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree in painting and drawing but said she realized she was interested more in drawing and painting for fun.

The year after Murray graduated — instead of going straight to a graduate program — she took on a variety of jobs. She said she spent time at a frame shop and a slew of small art organizations around Rockingham and Augusta County, where she grew up. She said she eventually knew she wanted to be back in a school setting.

In 2009, she attended the University of New Hampshire for a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree on a full merit-based scholarship. She was able to study and teach abroad in Italy where she said she found plein air (open air) painting to be a truly immersive experience.

"People tend to not notice that you are not from Italy," Erin said. "They just come up and talk to you and you start to learn the language — it was wonderful."

After Italy, Murray began painting in a studio at Larkin Arts in Harrisonburg. Paul Somers, gallery director and co-owner at Larkin Arts in Harrisonburg, said Murray's artistic talent is rare.

"With Erin's work, there's a high level of technical ability that's there," Somers said. "You just do not find that very frequently. It implies that a person spends copious hours honing their craft, and that is exactly what Erin has done."

Murray's in her third year as an art professor at JMU and is maintaining painting and drawing as a full-time profession, working out of her home studio and Larkin Arts.

At JMU, she shares her office with art professor Katelyn Wood. Wood said Murray's been helpful in developing her career over the years.

"Any time I have a thought or process issue, we can bounce ideas off each other," Wood said. "She is always there to have as a springboard."

Murray said her passion for teaching and her art career is immense. She said from the time she wakes up until the time she goes to bed, she's creating.

"There is this question of, if people are born with 'grit,' where you care about something and just keep doing it," Murray said. "If I am not painting, I am not happy."

Murray said if she could ever go back and change

her path, she wouldn't do anything differently. Art has become a mainstay in her life.

"Why would anybody want to do anything else?" she said.

Brandy Somers, who's entering her 14th year teaching in Rockingham County Public Schools, has also spent time expanding the art scene in Harrisonburg as a co-owner of Larkin Arts. Brandy, who's worked with Murray for 10 years, applauds Murray for her leadership and welcoming nature.

"She is a teacher at heart. She loves explaining things, and that makes art very approachable for people," Brandy said. "She is one of the artists that buys into the idea that anybody can be a part of the scene or even contribute to a show."

In the climate of COVID-19, Paul Somers said the state of affairs in the Harrisonburg art scene is at risk.

"It's an ongoing fear during this time that we are losing a lot of what took a long time to build," Paul said.

However, Brandy said the art culture of downtown Harrisonburg doesn't seem to be going anywhere. She said that Larkin Arts, while unable to open in an in-person capacity, is producing shows virtually.

"[The culture] is something that gives people more than just a life of waking up, eating, going to work and going home," Paul said. "There are events that you can engage with that catapult your quality of life, that without those things is nonexistent."

Murray's most recent series, "Trashy Nudes," which is displayed virtually through Larkin Arts, is part of a continuing theme of pollution, trash and the female form in her work.

She said the series aims to expose the trend of scrubbing the world clean online. She said she took inspiration from Edgar Degas' series on bathers. However, even in that series, she said she felt that the images were cleansed of undesirable features.

She said she intended her series to maintain aesthetic similarity, but as opposed to beautiful images surrounding the bathers, she'd paint trash that she had or picked up from Purcell Park streams.

"I want people to think this is disgusting or disturbing," Murray said. "This is what we do in real life, and there should be a level of feeling grossed out."

Brandy said the way Murray opens doors for residents to contribute to the local body of work — people that wouldn't call themselves "artists" — enhances and expands Harrisonburg's art culture.

Fostering and developing a community that's willing to be vulnerable with each other is a special accomplishment that Harrisonburg locals can hang their hat on, Paul said.

Murray, Wood, Paul and Brandy all at some point were fifth graders and then college students and are now expanding the culture and art scene of Harrisonburg with the work they do.

"The longer you stick with something and practice, it's more likely you can outrun the competition, as not everyone will be able to give full attention to it," Murray said. "[Have] a combination of blissful ignorance and stubbornness."

**CONTACT** Will Roberts at rober2ws@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.



Murray's gallery "Trashy Nudes" is displayed virtually through Larkin Arts.

"The longer you stick with something and practice, it's more likely you can outrun the competition as not everyone will be able to give full attention to it."

**Erin Murray**

Local artist and JMU professor



"Trashy Nudes" includes themes of pollution and female form. Photos by Mary Pollard / The Breeze

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Thursday, September 24, 2020



Reeves said as a music major, participating in an ensemble is crucial to one's education. Photos courtesy of Jacob Reeves



Reeves plays instruments like piano and flute, but also said he enjoys conducting.

# Lizzo, but make it jazz

JMU senior Jacob Reeves recruits student musicians and alumni for a band cover of Lizzo's 'Cuz I Love You'

By **MORGAN VUKNIC**  
*The Breeze*

In March, many activities came to a standstill because of COVID-19, but that didn't stop Jacob Reeves, a senior music education major, from making music.

Reeves came up with the idea of getting JMU students and alumni together to record a cover of Lizzo's "Cuz I Love You" in May, but the project faced setbacks. In July, after a tree branch struck him, Reeves lost sight in his left eye. Although his injury was unexpected, Reeves said it allowed him to come up with ideas for his music video.

"I've always been fascinated with all different forms of light," Reeves said. "When I went and started to do the music video, I made sure whenever there were big impacts that I was making the background of all the videos as bright as possible. I guess, unintentionally, that [the injury] makes it to where I can detect the big hits of light with my left eye."

Reeves said the inspiration for the project came from the desire to make music. He said when he first heard "Cuz I Love You," he fell in love and could hear it being played by a jazz band.

"If you're going to do something with a jazz group, you need a different character to portray, and I knew that sassy character could really speak out," Reeves said. "I chose this song because I'm a huge fan of Lizzo, and she was a music major in college. She plays the flute, which is why I added in the flute part, and it has inspired me."

Reeves said being in an ensemble is a large part of every music major's degree, and with COVID-19, that became impossible. Reeves said this project allowed people to play with others, which not only had an academic purpose but was also good for their mental health.

"Jacob reached out to me around May," Amy Millesen, a junior trumpet performance major, said. "We had been in quarantine for a couple of months, and this was another opportunity to sort of play music together with people."

Although it may be difficult to make music with others now, Millesen said projects like these are important to pursue. She said it was nice to see her friends and collaborate with them.

Virtual playing also allowed her to learn more about the technological side of music. Millesen said virtual performances may start to become

more normal in the music industry because, like live performances, there are benefits to playing virtually.

"If you're going to do something with a jazz group, you need a different character to portray, and I knew that sassy character could really speak out."

**Jacob Reeves**  
Senior music education major

music teacher Erin Dixon ('20) said these performances allow one to share music with the world and show viewers different types of music.

"I think with music and a lot of performances I've seen amidst COVID-19 have been classical

arrangements, which is great, but in the Western world of music, we just have so much of that," Dixon said. "But what about the people who aren't interested in that? We all know who Lizzo is; she's an incredible musician and female role model."

Dixon said she thinks projects like this are important because it allows groups to reach different audiences and showcase diversity. It also shows that classical musicians can play different styles and can all work and play together.

Even though Reeves knew how important this project would be, he said at times it was hard to put the puzzle together. He said he had to learn how to edit and mix the videos by himself, and at times it was exhausting. But after figuring out the technical issues, he was able to put all the videos together to create the cover of "Cuz I Love You."

"Jacob deserves the full exposure of this arrangement," Dixon said. "I definitely think if we were in person, we all could've had the experience of sharing it with people. Performing it live would've been so cool and just a different experience, but it's really important that we continue to make these music experiences happen, even if we're not in person."

**CONTACT** Morgan Vuknic at [vuknicma@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:vuknicma@dukes.jmu.edu). For more on the culture, arts, and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Instagram and Twitter @Breeze\_Culture.



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MERGE

INTO

THE

MAINSTREAM

Local coffee shop expands with hopes of creating an accessible and caffeinated experience

Darryl Matthews is one of the four founders of Merge Coffee Co. who made his love for coffee into a successful Harrisonburg business. Joe Gumpf / The Breeze

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Merge offers a variety of roasts for all coffee palettes including some direct trade blends.

By **AUDREY NAKAGAWA**  
*The Breeze*

Community and connection are just a few of the ideals Merge Coffee Company was founded on by four people who pursued their passion for coffee.

Before the business came to be what it is now, the co-owners simply shared their love of coffee with one another. They came together Sunday nights to sample coffee from around the country, and in 2017, they decided to take their passion to the next level.

Merge is owned by two families: Darryl and Charles Matthews, who are cousins, and Emily and Larisa Martin, who are sisters.

"The four of us, we make a complete team," Charles said. "We couldn't do anything that we do without the other."

Charles and Darryl aren't siblings, but Charles said they function like brothers. Charles, the older one, said that Darryl has worked with him throughout his life.

"[Darryl has] been around my whole life since he was one year old," Charles said. "Most of his work career we've worked together — we've got a real natural synergy where we understand each other well."

The friends, and now co-owners of Merge, started roasting their own coffee, and since then have become committed to roasting coffee "meticulously and sustainably."

"We decided to pile money together and buy a tiny one-pound roaster — that was the birthing of Merge," Darryl said.

Merge began as an online shop selling roasted coffee and eventually grew to where it is now: having two brick-and-mortar establishments.

In April, Merge opened its second location on the outskirts of downtown Harrisonburg. Merge took over the location that used to house Chanello's Pizza.

"Funny enough we took pictures in front of a different building that we thought we were going to be in," Darryl said. "But this is a much better option."



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Harrisonburg, Virginia



One of Merge's biggest goals is to create a space for students to relax and study. Joe Gumpf / The Breeze



The new Merge location is on North Main Street downtown. Tristan Lorei / The Breeze

The new location has a clean look — the building is almost entirely white, with its logo and signage done in black for contrast. Upon entering, customers see meticulously placed plants that stand out from the crisp look of the inside of the building as well as brightly accented bags of coffee beans lining the counter.

"I really like the natural light that comes in," Erin Laymon, senior communication studies major and customer, said. "I think it's restful and chill but also bright at the same time."

Merge has always been looking toward expansion even before the pandemic, Charles said, and it succeeded to do so in the midst of it.

"One of our big visions for our community is just accessibility," Charles said. "We want all of our patrons and people who are in our customer base to be able to get Merge coffee where they want it."

The idea was, if there was a location downtown, customers who typically drive north to visit the company's first location would still be able to enjoy Merge and could walk to get it.

"We want to be a third place provider for all people but especially students," Charles said. "A place where they can feel safe, happy,

comfortable — a space, in a sense, that they can own as well, like, 'This is my coffee shop.'"

Charles said that Merge Coffee Company welcomes students to come study, relax and enjoy the goods it sells.

"I think that some of the other coffee shops just tend to be busier ... Sometimes, I get distracted when I'm hearing other peoples' conversations and stuff, so it's quieter in here," Laymon said.

The two families who created Merge came together from different cultures and backgrounds and were able to establish a business that's become oriented around community.

"I love that coffee shops represent a canvas, in a sense, of people to build relationships, to grow, to challenge each other — ultimately to be better," Darryl said. "I love that coffee shops present that space to pursue those things."

**CONTACT** Audrey Nakagawa at nakagaas@dukes.jmu.edu. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter and Instagram @Breeze\_Culture.

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Thursday, September 24, 2020



Cignetti (left) is the second straight JMU coach to reach the national title game in his first season.



Cignetti and his staff recruited the No. 1 class in the CAA in 2020. Photos by Tristan Lorei / The Breeze

# Time to move forward

## Football head coach Curt Cignetti reflects on 2019 season

By **NOAH ZIEGLER**  
*The Breeze*

When JMU football prepared during the summer before the 2019 campaign, it wanted to play 16 games. The regular season slate wasn't enough; the Dukes wanted to reach Frisco for the third time in four years, and its pursuit began when the new staff came in under head coach Curt Cignetti.

The former Elon head coach didn't have to implement drastic changes. The early stage of his time in Harrisonburg was dedicated to laying a blueprint for the program one day at a time and forming an identity known as "Dukes football."

That identity was being a relentless competitor. Cignetti wanted his team to learn how to take adversity and thrive through it — not crumble under it.

Setting the standard and forging an identity starts in spring camp and escalates in the summer. For a new coach trying to take a JMU team that went 9-4 (6-2 CAA) in 2018 further into the playoffs, it helped that the Dukes had multiple veteran players that knew what it took to add more trophies to the program's repertoire.

"I thought we came a long way in August camp. About the last half of camp — or second week on — you could really see it starting to come together," Cignetti said. "The practices were cleaner and crisper. We knew we had a chance to have a good football team. Now, new staff, new team, there's always going to be unknowns."

As summer camp neared its end and the first game against West Virginia inched closer, the relationships between players and coaches grew. The trust was there, and the environment was taking the form that the new coaches wanted.

"Throughout the season, our relationships definitely strengthened," former offensive lineman Mac Patrick said. "They made it a joy to really come to workouts, come to practice, go to the games and really work and give your all."

Patrick said he was close with not only his own position coach but even the defensive coaches. While JMU didn't pull off the FCS over FBS upset against the Mountaineers, the feeling afterward wasn't normal for a smaller

school. Many teams would've been satisfied taking WVU to the brink and losing 20-13, but the Dukes were disappointed. When they saw the Big 12 program on the schedule on Week 1, they wanted to begin 1-0.

Cignetti said the team left Morgantown, West Virginia, knowing if they took care of business one day at a time they'd blossom into the title-contending team that JMU fans yearn to see.

"The sky was the limit," Cignetti said.

The Dukes responded with two commanding wins but had to go on the road for three consecutive games against teams that proved the team's capability against the premier competition of the FCS.

Each game presented roadblocks that Cignetti wanted to encounter to fuel the growth of his team. Against Chattanooga, the intense heat made hydration and basic fundamentals crucial. The Dukes prevailed 37-14, and the first test of the team's FCS slate was passed.

Next was Elon, the team that upset JMU at Bridgeforth Stadium the year before and the program Cignetti departed from when he took the Dukes' head coaching position. Despite conceding a long touchdown on the second play of the game, JMU responded with 38 unanswered points en route to a 45-10 victory.

To wrap the road trip, JMU traveled to New York to face Stony Brook. On the last leg of a gruesome road trip, the Dukes were well on their way to a comfortable win over a ranked Seawolves team. But late-game heroics from Stony Brook forced the game to go to overtime.

Like Cignetti wanted all along, his team was persevering through challenges. The roadblocks weren't stopping points — they were learning experiences that ultimately helped them carry momentum throughout the season.

"That was another real moment of adversity for our team on the road," Cignetti said. "We kept our poise, you know, played well in overtime, came out of there with a win, and I think that gave a lot of players some added confidence that no matter what happens, we could find a way. The following week against Villanova is a prime example."

see **REFLECTION**, page 21

“They made it a joy to really come to workouts, come to practice, go to the games and really work and give your all.”

**Mac Patrick**

Former JMU offensive lineman

# ZOOMIN' UREC adapts during the pandemic

By **COURTNEY RYDER**  
*The Breeze*

The discovery of new passions and hobbies has filled 2020 while one spends the majority of time quarantining or following stay-at-home orders. Public gyms were closed for months because of the coronavirus, so people had to find creative ways to stay active.

UREC closed its doors in March when JMU announced the suspension of in-person classes and activities and didn't reopen until July. Closing UREC, although it was necessary to ensure the safety of visitors and employees, left some students without easy access to workout equipment.

Troy Maples, who graduated from JMU last May with a bachelor's degree in communication studies, began working at UREC as a personal trainer at the beginning of his senior year. He said the hardest part about UREC closing was not seeing his friends and co-workers on a daily basis.

"Losing not just the face time with your clients but with the people at UREC and your co-workers, that was really tough," Maples said. "I can find ways to help out people with training online and anything like that, but losing all that face time with people and losing those personal connections, that definitely takes away some of the more exciting, like, more fun parts of the job."

Tran Truong, who also graduated from JMU in May, decided to get a job at UREC after he fell in love with weightlifting and realized how mentally stimulating and clarifying it was for him. Truong said working at UREC gave him a new appreciation for the building's daily operations.

"Working there definitely gave me a backbone understanding of the logistics of UREC and everything that happens behind the scenes," Truong said. "It was really interesting and really fun to be a participant

while also working there too, so [I] really got the full experience."

Like Maples, Truong also said he missed the social aspect of UREC and the friends he made there when UREC closed in March. Because it was his senior year, he said he didn't realize his last moments at UREC were his last.

"I think the one thing I miss most about UREC is definitely the people," Truong said. "I miss seeing familiar faces, whether it be the housekeepers, the UREC staff and just people you would always see at that same time you would get your lift in because you form these relationships with people even if it's in passing."

Before there was a pandemic that changed most aspects of one's daily life, UREC's facilities helped students maintain a healthy lifestyle. UREC offers many ways to exercise aside from treadmills and medicine balls, whether it be swimming laps in the pool, running on the track or playing a game of racquetball with friends. There truly is an activity for everyone. UREC is filled with people who are welcoming of others and willing to help each other out, which makes one's UREC experience even better.

"All my co-workers and people that come in to visit the gym just to use it are so close, and everybody just wants to talk and hang out," Maples said. "Even as a personal trainer you get one-on-one time with clients, obviously, and you know [it's] the same situation there. I was really lucky."

Before it closed for the pandemic, UREC's positive atmosphere made it a favorite place for students to work out, even if they lived off campus. Maples said it was also one of the reasons he loved working there.

"My experience at UREC was nothing but positive," Maples said. "I wouldn't have wanted to be a trainer anywhere else."

COVID-19 drastically impacted students' lives and daily routines as they adapted to



Students participate in the outside weight room for UREC

new realities and tried to find a new normal. Workouts are just one thing that changed during quarantine.

Instagram and Zoom played a huge role in UREC's success maintaining its personal training and group class services. Although one-on-one personal training wasn't allowed, UREC employees filmed workouts for Instagram in their homes. New workouts were posted at least once a week and varied in difficulty and the muscle groups that were targeted.

For students who prefer group workouts, UREC offered group classes like yoga and HIIT through Zoom, which was also advertised and promoted on Instagram. This helped students feel like they were still connected to other students, and it gave group exercise instructors the opportunity to continue working.

Kaitlin Pomerleau, assistant director for marketing and social media at UREC, said the processes for workout videos posted on Instagram and group classes led via Zoom were different, but both required departments to work together.

"The group exercise classes, that was a longer kind of process," Pomerleau said. "[Different departments within UREC] would schedule the instructors, we would schedule which classes were going to be taught on Zoom, what time, then we would promote that and then people would go to the classes, we would record the classes and then marketing would download the class, edit it a little bit [and] upload it to our YouTube."

Household items were transformed into gym equipment. Canned goods and laundry detergent replaced dumbbells, chairs and coffee tables replaced weight benches, old socks and scarves replaced resistance bands and paper towels replaced sliding discs and ab wheels. UREC employees got creative with their workouts too, showing that a good workout is still possible with household items. Maples credits the diverse group of trainers with different backgrounds at UREC for creating many different workouts using minimal or no equipment.

"A lot of the trainers specialize in different things like weightlifting and CrossFit, so first and foremost a lot of them were able to bring in exercises that some of the other trainers may not have thought about," Maples said. "And then on top of that, when you have one or two people, for instance, using a water

jug or using some type of weight that most people have in their home, it created, like, a web effect."

Maples used a backpack for weight in his arm and core workout, which was shared on UREC's Instagram account. He said the idea came from another trainer, and he thought it was a good idea because everyone can make their own backpack heavier or lighter based on their needs and skill level.

UREC is one of many gyms to utilize social media to provide easy-to-follow workouts that require minimal equipment while following social distancing guidelines.

Whitney Simmons, a well-known fitness influencer whose YouTube channel and Instagram account have a combined 5.08 million followers, posted multiple workouts throughout the week that focused on bodyweight exercises that were quiet — great for students in dorms or off-campus apartments — and didn't need any gym equipment, just one's bodyweight.

UREC reopened its doors last month after making adjustments to its daily operations. Equipment was marked off to maintain social distancing and some equipment was moved to University Park to create an outdoor gym space. The at-home workout videos on Instagram are saved in a 'workouts' highlight, making them easily accessible, and UREC has a webpage full of virtual resources with links and videos for group exercise, fitness, mindfulness, safety and more. Pomerleau said new workout videos will be posted throughout the semester for students who are more comfortable working out at home.

"They're in the works right now, and they're going to be better than ever," Pomerleau said. "They should be coming out in the next few weeks. We did have to, kind of, reshift our focus back to basics. We're gonna reshift back to regularly scheduled programming and getting some more of that fun, motivational content back out there."

As JMU prepares to return to on-campus instruction, UREC is ready to continue helping students live a healthy lifestyle. Whether students work out at UREC, UPARK or in their living room, UREC has an option for everyone.

**CONTACT** Courtney Ryder at ryderce@dukes.jmu.edu. For more sports coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.



Students work out outdoors because of limitations inside of UREC. Photos by Tristen Lorei / The Breeze



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Thursday, September 24, 2020

# SEC → CAA

## Graduate Karis Beasley became a leader on and off the court for JMU

By **MADISON HRICIK**  
The Breeze

Graduate student Karis Beasley can be seen on the volleyball court in both an offensive and defensive position. With many years of experience under her belt, Beasley has become a leader for the JMU volleyball team. With her final season uncertain, she's taken a look back on her time playing collegiate volleyball, both at JMU and before she became a Duke.

"When I came and did a tour, they [JMU] told me about the culture and it was something that I didn't really see much at my previous school," Beasley said. "So here not only is everyone in a close-knit group but I'm able to keep working on everything I need in volleyball."

Originally from Texas, Beasley played volleyball in a competitive state. With students committing to in-state volleyball teams such as Baylor University and Texas University, the competition to be noticed by major athletic programs was difficult. However, Beasley's versatility on the court and her experience as both an offensive and defensive asset made her appealing and a threat on the court.

Beasley began her collegiate career playing at Auburn University for two seasons. While there, she redshirted her first year because of a season-ending injury. Once recovered, Beasley made her debut against Georgia Tech for the Tigers. After her comeback, she played in every set while at Auburn and tallied 422 digs, eight kills, 27 assists and 42 aces.

"Our initial attraction to her was her volleyball skill and talent," head coach Lauren Steinbrecher said. "When we saw she was on the transfer portal and watched her video, she had good numbers for competing in the SEC, and when we got to know her better we practically begged her to join, and she did."

When Beasley joined JMU volleyball, she continued to grow as a player. In her first season, Beasley finished with 208 digs, 17 kills and 12 assists. Playing in 93 sets, Beasley was a strong force for the Dukes as a defensive specialist and an outside hitter for the team.

Because she was attending JMU as a graduate student, Beasley was already the oldest member of the team. With former teammates like middle blocker M'Kaela White, outside hitter Briley Brind'Amour and setter Sarah Martin as the remaining senior leadership, growing as a connected member of the team was a simple task. The team is open about their close relationships with their teammates and coaches, and Beasley joining was no exception.

"Coming in, we noticed her leadership capabilities and confidence from the start," assistant coach Travis Magorien said. "If there was someone she wanted to learn from, those three were the prime examples to go to. She latched on to them and is coming to her own now because of it."

Beasley held a leadership role throughout her first season on the team and continues to hold the role this year. With three years of competition under her belt and more determination than ever, Beasley's used her confidence and courage to help bring the team closer whenever they're able to practice together.

"Just being a presence in the team and doing

things with the team that we don't always see is something she's doing a good job at," Magorien said. "I think that right away with her experience they knew that she's the real deal, and she has done a good job of leading by example."

The team began holding practices again on Monday after a two-week pause due to COVID-19 exposures. However, that pause didn't stop Beasley or the rest of the roster from doing what they could to be in the best shape possible ahead of the upcoming season.

The NCAA announced its intention to hold fall sports championships during the spring this past Wednesday, with the official season start date still being determined within conferences. The NCAA approved having all teams begin the season Jan. 22, with a condensed NCAA tournament size of 48 teams compared to the usual number of 64 teams.

"The team is ready to get back in the gym," Magorien said. "They're super motivated and really want to win another championship. The current senior class is the last team to win a CAA title, and the team really wants that experience." This decision allows athletes to be able to have a championship appearance and title as their ultimate goal once again as well as face off against rival Towson — which won against the Dukes last season. To Beasley, that's something she said she's hoped for throughout her volleyball career.

"The team and the staff and the culture are all amazing parts of being here," Beasley said. "However, competing for championships is an incredible thing I've really loved doing here. It's not an opportunity I've had before, so it means a lot."

JMU Volleyball hasn't announced any schedule play for either conference or tournament and most likely won't until the spring semester. This break in the schedule gives way for Beasley to continue to grow and improve as a player during this unprecedented quiet period.

"Everyone comes in as the best player in their area," Beasley said. "It's a reality check and a big adjustment to make, so you have to work that much harder to get the playing time and skills you want to stand out."

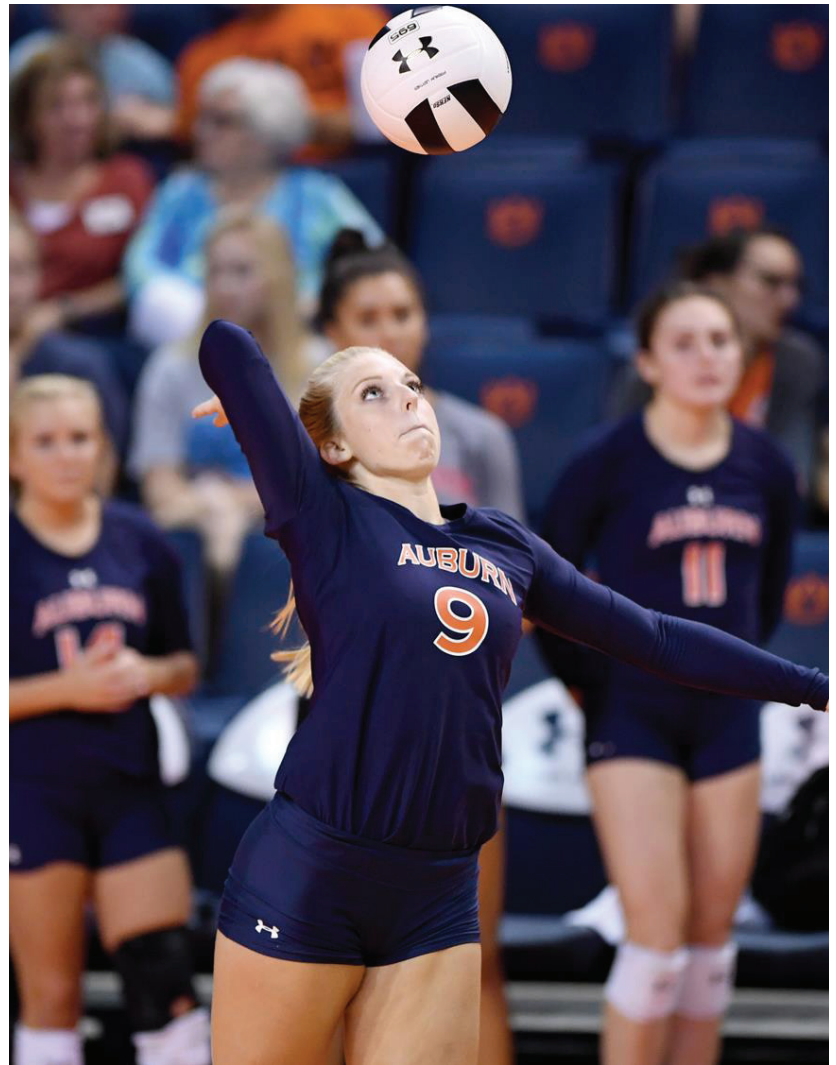
Beasley is known for her versatility on the court as both a producing offensive and defensive player. Being a defensive specialist and outside hitter allows her to understand the game from different angles. Despite playing defense more in college, Beasley's been able to score offensively in high-pressure situations.

Even with the pressure having to flip back and forth between an offensive and defensive position, the mindset doesn't change or affect her abilities as a player. Her ability to do so has become a major asset for the Dukes that's been used in almost every match.

"Confidence was never an issue for her," Coach Steinbrecher said. "She was able to step in and really execute on a high level."

Beasley has been a strong role model for JMU Volleyball and has continued to work toward a CAA championship in the spring when fall sports return.

**CONTACT** Madison Hricik at [hricikmn@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:hricikmn@dukes.jmu.edu). For more volleyball coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.



Graduate defensive specialist Karis Beasley serves the ball at Auburn.  
Photo Courtesy of Auburn Athletics Communications



Beasley gets ready for the next serve at JMU. Photo by Catherine Perrine / The Breeze

# REFLECTION

Cignetti, former players look back on JMU's 2019 CAA title and National Championship run

From page 18

In the Dukes' first game in Harrisonburg in three weeks, Villanova presented one of the bigger challenges for Cignetti and Co. to overcome. The Wildcats were up 24-17 in the fourth quarter, but three touchdowns in quick succession carried JMU to a 38-24 win against the then-No. 5 team in the country.

Cignetti knew the Dukes had to continue improving, but the goal

then was to remain healthy and stay focused. After handling many moments of adversity, it was clear what the opportunity for the team was, and that was another FCS National Championship run.



JMU went 14-2 in 2018. Tristan Lorei / The Breeze

As it turned out, another trip to Frisco was in the cards. A date with North Dakota State was the last task the Dukes needed to complete. Unfortunately, the ending wasn't what the purple and gold wanted, and instead of streamers painting the field at Toyota Stadium, it was the green and yellow confetti that swarmed the Bison as they lifted the FCS National Championship trophy yet again.

"Since we're back and not in season, we've gone back and watched games one through 16," Cignetti said. "Offense as a staff, defense as a staff, I go back and watch myself offense, defense and special

teams ... We had some opportunities we didn't cash in on in the red area, we had a few missed assignments on defense early in the game. At the end of the day, they made the plays, and we didn't."



Adam Smith had six interceptions in 2019. Photo by Tristan Lorei / The Breeze

Following the game, as the heartbroken players sat at their lockers, Cignetti and his staff were there to remind the team what it'd done. JMU won a CAA Championship and remained an upper echelon program even after another coaching change.

"I think the way Coach Cignetti is, he's ready to turn the page and get ready for the next season and get a chance to go back," former safety Adam Smith said. "For the seniors, it's tough because it's our last game, but for everyone else, they're ready to move on and get ready for this next season."

As players and coaches wait for what spring football might look like, the 2019 chapter of JMU football has been shut. In practice, new faces are emerging as future stars waiting in the wings. Players are cementing their place

on the team and showing what the team will be like next year.

But for fans, the wait continues. The eagerness to see how the Dukes will respond to a heartbreaking end to a dazzling season thrives with more time added before the season will begin, but the wait will be worth it.

"It's not easy to win 14 games in a row, and we did that," Cignetti said. "We were 100% confident going into the last one, and we ran into a great player. We really did. But I think you gotta look back at everything [JMU] accomplished. I'm proud of the seniors, proud of the team."

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

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Thursday, September 24, 2020



PRESENT:



# Emerson Sykes

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 30, 6 P.M.**

**American Civil Liberties Union lawyer to discuss the First Amendment on college campuses, focusing on the differences between public and private campuses**



The virtual event will include a Q&A session and will be moderated by **Roy F. Young II**, president and CEO of James Madison's Montpelier.



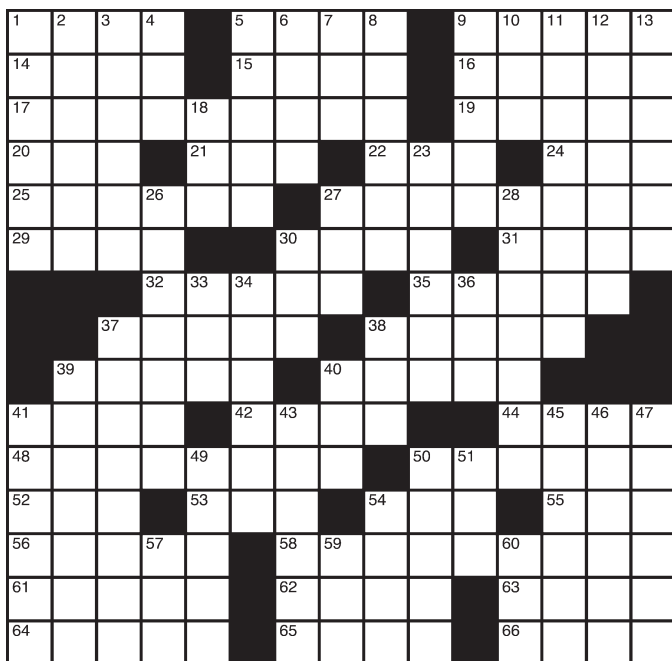
Bridgewater College: <https://j.mu/sykesbc>  
James Madison University: <https://j.mu/sykes>

FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

# Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

- ACROSS**
- 1 Espionage name
  - 5 Not at all rainy
  - 9 Old Faithful output
  - 14 Got down
  - 15 Virologist Yvonne who worked with Epstein
  - 16 Serving tool
  - 17 Ado
  - 19 Hunt in "Mission: Impossible" films
  - 20 H. to Hercules
  - 21 NE player, to fans
  - 22 Very start?
  - 24 Trial fig.
  - 25 Unit in an improvisational parlor game
  - 27 Word in a con man's pitch
  - 29 Foil alternative
  - 30 Goofy images?
  - 31 Fig or olive
  - 32 Subtle vibes
  - 35 Cookbook instruction
  - 37 Former Postal Service mascot
  - 38 Ones drawn to flames, briefly
  - 39 Indira's son
  - 40 Thought about it
  - 41 British general at the Battle of Bunker Hill
  - 42 Obi-Wan portrayer
  - 44 "Get a \_\_\_!"
  - 48 Dryer component
  - 50 Brainstorm
  - 52 "Double Fantasy" artist
  - 53 Klutz
  - 54 California's Santa \_\_\_ River
  - 55 PreCheck org.
  - 56 More adept
  - 58 Basketball tactic ... and a hint to four puzzle rows
  - 61 Works hard
  - 62 Dieter's buzzword
  - 63 Beat by a nose
  - 64 Hindu sage
  - 65 First Best Actor Jannings
  - 66 More than coax

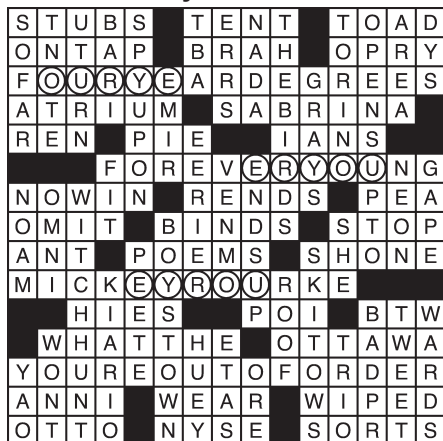


By Debbie Ellerin

9/24/20

- DOWN**
- 1 "You and what army?!"
  - 2 Bartender's device
  - 3 Rant
  - 4 DOJ branch
  - 5 BBC sitcom
  - 6 River transport
  - 7 Offline, briefly
  - 8 Austin Powers' nemesis
  - 9 Aerodynamic
  - 10 Skin pic
  - 11 "Pollock" star
  - 12 Adolescent support group
  - 13 Protégé
  - 18 News initials
  - 23 Bacon products
  - 26 VIP travel option
  - 27 Legal thing
  - 28 IA city on U.S. 20
  - 30 Limit
  - 33 Action film weapon
  - 34 Only unanimous Baseball Hall of Fame electee
  - 36 Dr. of rap

## Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

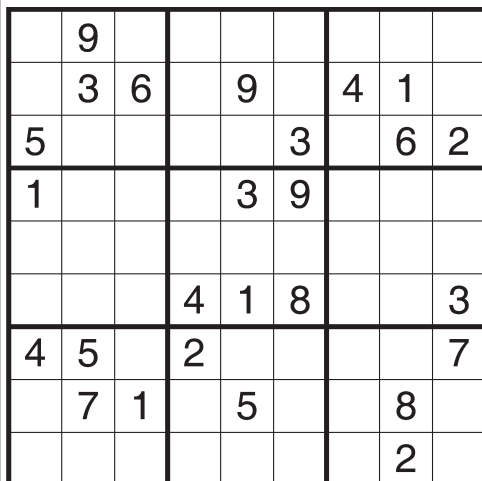


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- 37 Official flower of two Southern states
- 38 "Cherry Garcia" is one
- 39 Path to the gold, so they say
- 40 Waze feature
- 41 Wins in an ugly way?
- 43 Equivocate
- 45 Not for kids
- 46 "Let's do this"
- 47 Reached a max
- 49 Upper bodies
- 50 Recon mission goal
- 51 Put gently (on)
- 54 Vino venue
- 57 Street in a horror series
- 59 Archer's skill
- 60 Gym unit

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group



9/24/20

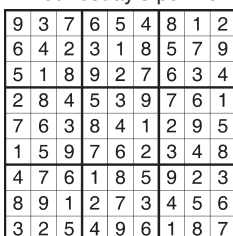
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Level



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, please visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk)

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle



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241 West View St Starting August 2021, 7 Bed 4FB house. Super close to the Quad. Check out the listing on Zillow or JMU Off-Campus housing. JMU Alumn owners.

## Graphic Designer Wanted



The Breeze, JMU's award-winning student media organization, seeks a student graphic designer for print and online advertising. Job requirements include creating ads for clients, collaboration with Advertising Coordinator, page layout and design. Must be deadline oriented. Knowledge of Adobe software and previous design experience. EOE. Apply at

JMU Job Link <https://joblink.jmu.edu/postings/6587>

# WANTED:

## Writers, alive.

Email [breezeditor@gmail.com](mailto:breezeditor@gmail.com).

**Post your ad at**  
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The Breeze

BreezeVideo

[breezejmu.org](http://breezejmu.org)

Thursday, September 24, 2020

# **ONE FRIENDLY CITY** **MANY DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES**

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**TOGETHER, LET'S ALL DO OUR PART TO PROTECT  
THE HEALTH & WELLNESS OF HARRISONBURG**



## **HELP US KEEP HARRISONBURG OPEN!**

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- WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN**
- WEAR A MASK IN PUBLIC**
- STAY HOME WHEN SICK**
- PRACTICE DISTANCING**

