

The Breeze

JMU'S AWARD-WINNING NEWSPAPER SINCE 1922

DEC. 3, 2020 VOL. 99 NO. 13 BREEZEJMU.ORG

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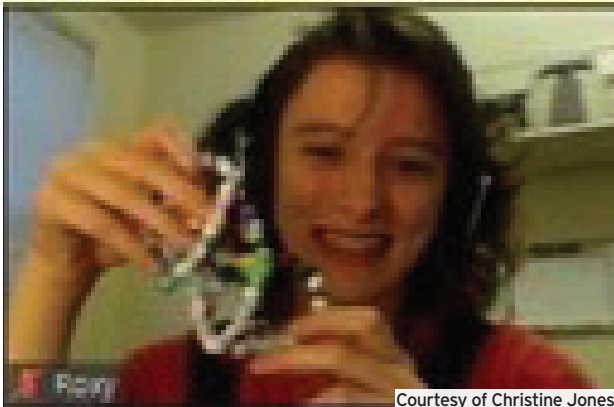
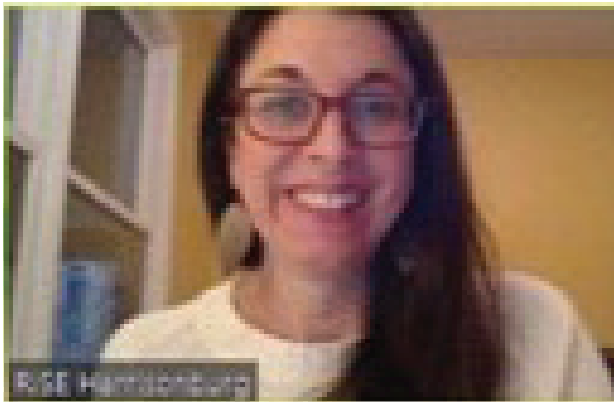
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The Breeze, the student-run newspaper of James Madison University, serves student, faculty and staff readership by reporting news involving the campus and local community. *The Breeze* strives to be impartial and fair in its reporting and firmly believes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

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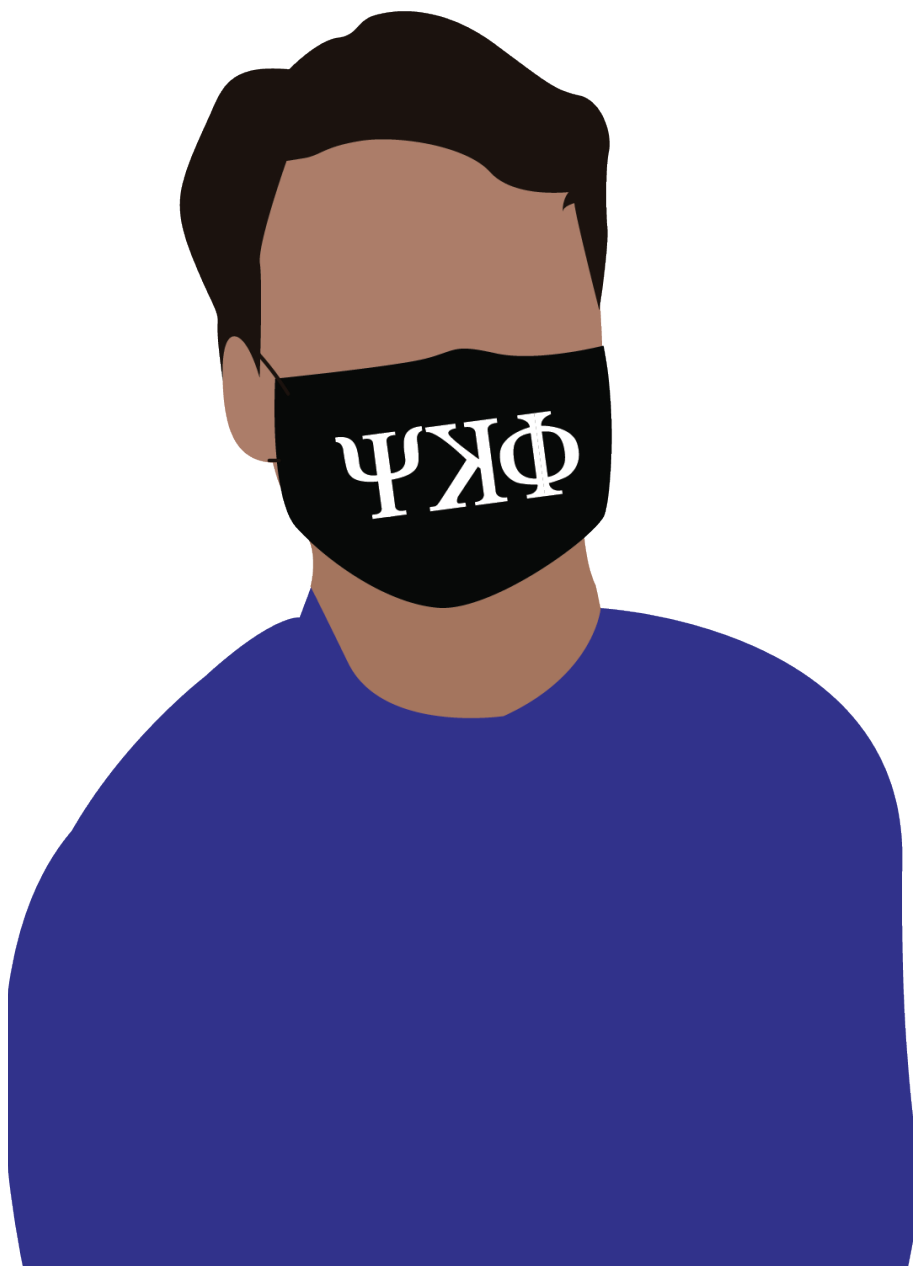
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Good standing?

Phi Kappa Psi is only Greek organization that faces COVID-19 violations

“Why not just help do your part and stay home?”

Bardia Jahangir
Pi Kappa Phi president



By **MICHAEL STALEY**
contributing writer

The JMU administration issued a temporary suspension of operations for the Virginia Theta chapter of the social fraternity Phi Kappa Psi earlier this semester. Despite having 32 greek organizations on campus, Phi Psi is the only one to face suspensions for COVID-19 violations.

Ever since Oct. 30, many students alleged that the fraternity had been fined \$20,000 for violating JMU’s Stop the Spread agreement. Vice President of Student Affairs Tim Miller debunked the rumor of the fine.

“Other than this temporary suspension, the chapter has not received any sanctions or fines. We will continue to work with the chapter’s HQ, Harrisonburg Police Department and the chapter to determine what occurred and address the behavior,” Miller said.

On the official JMU Fraternity and Sorority Life webpage, Phi Kappa Psi is listed as “not in good standing” with JMU administration. The Interfraternity Council has publicly stated that it’s under investigation by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life for holding a gathering with more than 50 individuals, which violates the university’s Stop the Spread agreement.

“We received a number of reports about a large and disruptive party being hosted at a facility where all residents are members of JMU’s Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity,” Miller said. “[On Oct. 30] The chapter was put on a Temporarily Suspension of Operations, which ceases all chapter activities as we more fully investigate this event.”

With the investigation ongoing, the newly recognized Virginia Theta chapter — Phi Kappa Psi — could face a permanent loss of recognition from the university, Miller said.

While the number of individual parties or gatherings Miller busted is unclear, the JMU daily crime log reported 15 incidents of “mass gathering” that were handled by the JMU and HPD task force from Oct. 29 to Oct. 30 and four from Nov. 1 to Dec. 1.

One of those incidents was at 237 W Market St., which is an off-campus Phi Kappa Psi house. The time frame and location match the reports Miller addressed. The incident took place Oct. 29, at around 11 p.m. Legal summons were issued by HPD for a mass gathering.

When FSL was asked about the situation, Lexi Swiminer, assistant director of FSL, referred to Miller’s statement and didn’t say anything else about the situation.

When asked, Grayson Ousey and Mikael Demeke, Phi Kappa Psi rush chairs, both declined to comment regarding the party

and the sanctions given to the fraternity.

However, Kyle Reister, a sophomore brother of Phi Kappa Psi, confirmed that his organization isn’t currently hosting any social events as of right now and doesn’t know when they will.

As the pandemic reaches its third spike across the world, Miller explained the ramifications of events like these on the health of the JMU community.

Other greek organizations have made it a point to practice social distancing and to abide by the rules set forth by JMU administration. Pi Kappa Phi president Bardia Jahangir, a senior biology major, discouraged his brothers from gathering and jeopardizing the livelihood of their fraternity.

“I was reiterating the fact that there are punishments for this, the only thing that can get into a guy’s head is no matter how stubborn they are, you will get kicked out of school and your parents are going to be furious with you for getting suspended from school for playing a simple game,” Jahangiri said.

Jahangari’s main goal is to ensure his chapter retains its status with the university so more people have the same opportunities to grow as he did. Pi Kappa Phi has steered clear from punishment from JMU administration and will continue to do so as long as people stay accountable for their actions, Jahangari said.

The pandemic hasn’t stopped Pi Kappa Phi from functioning. The organization hosts weekly meetings over Zoom, and has brother time in the form of playing games online such as NBA 2k, Madden, and other popular games. They are even looking toward a March Madness philanthropy event in the spring.

“Why not just help do your part and stay home,” Jahangari said.

JMU administrators said they were prepared to distribute sanctions to everyone who violates the Stop the Spread agreement, not just FSL organizations.

“We are concerned about the impact these large events can have on the community and the potential spread of COVID-19, which is why we have taken steps to encourage students not to host or attend such events,” Miller said. We are hopeful that this event and others won’t lead to viral spread, but all of the steps put in place to return on October 5 were designed to be prepared in case this would occur.”

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Reckon with history



Breeze file graphic

African American history elective proposed to Rockingham schools

By **ASHLYN CAMPBELL**
The Breeze

Rockingham High School students may see a new African American history class on the horizon. The Rockingham County School Board met Nov. 23 to discuss a list of additional classes to add to next year's curriculum, including the new history class.

The start of an idea

Oskar Scheikl, Rockingham County Public Schools superintendent, said the proposed addition of African American history was a result of a commission from Gov. Ralph Northam (D) in 2019. Scheikl said they're proposing the elective class because it provides a look at history from a different perspective.

"It's American history, but it's coming from a particular lens that's oftentimes missing," Scheikl said. "This [class] is about a unique historical experience that a particular group had ... when we only talk about it for a short amount of time in the history classes, we miss out."

Scheikl said other classes that were proposed are continuations of classes added in previous years, like Aerospace Technology II and Teachers for Tomorrow II. The school board will vote for approving all proposed classes including the African American history class Dec. 14.

Scheikl said the secondary sequences of classes are certain to be approved because they allow students to complete the class progression. Scheikl said when approving new classes like African American history, they look at anticipated interest from students, resources for classes and how it completes what the school system stands for, which is relationships, community and purposeful learning.

"School board members take a big picture approach," Scheikl said. "There's always an end goal in mind, and [they ask] 'Is the detail going to contribute to that bigger picture end goal?'"

Scheikl said that RCPS has a close

connection to the commission because two faculty members served on committees to help create the curriculum for the class. Sixteen school districts in Virginia piloted the elective in the 2020-21 school year, according to an Aug. 27 press release from

the governor's office.

Class Creators

Owen Longacre, a history teacher at Spotswood High School, and Beau Dickenson, the Rockingham County social studies supervisor, are the faculty members that helped create the curriculum for the commission.

Dickenson said that there was a deficiency in Black history within existing social studies classes. The previous curriculum didn't mention "core" items to the American narrative like the Selma to Montgomery March, figures in the civil rights era and the human impact and legacy of slavery, he said.

"We have to recognize those hard truths about our past," Dickenson said. "American history is a reckoning with our past, and of course we celebrate our great achievements, but we also at the same time have to recognize our flaws."

Longacre said he got involved because he'd been teaching an independent study in civil rights called "Farmville Tour Guides Project" with Dickenson. "Through that work ... Mr. Dickenson recommended that I apply for this commission and get involved from background experience that I've had and personal interest," Longacre said. "It was really rewarding getting to collaborate with teachers from all around the state."

Building the curriculum

Longacre said that he worked on a curriculum concerning the Harlem Renaissance, Virginia's role in the Brown vs. Board of Education decision and the background of the civil rights movement in Virginia. Longacre said his independent study into Farmville allowed him to bring



At the Nov. 23 school board meeting, the new African American classes were discussed. Courtesy of RCPS School Board

local area knowledge to the state level.

"What was exciting about that for me ... is part of Virginia's role in [Brown vs. Board of Education] was the story of Farmville, Virginia," Longacre said. "I was excited about doing that connection, and I made sure I signed up for that unit."

Longacre said every teacher on the committee had a chance to advocate for local history subjects as well. He said his write-up on Long's Chapel and the Community of Zenda in Broadway was accepted as part of the curriculum.

"That was really neat to bring that [to the curriculum] because that's right here in our local area," Longacre said. "But I don't know [if] a lot of people know about it."

Longacre said he hopes the elective will help students and the community understand a more holistic view of Virginia and U.S. history. He said that these stories are American history and aren't separate from the history that's been taught in the classroom.

"Virginia has a lot of really tough history," Longacre said. "We can't always hold the blame for everything that happened in the past, but we do have a responsibility to make our future better, and I'm hoping that this course is a part of that."

Dickenson worked in a different capacity within the commission that focused on supporting existing classes and had a

curriculum added to it like U.S. history. Dickenson said he collaborated with VDOE to receive grant money to fund the effort to implement the work of the commission into the classroom.

"This is something that we feel really passionate about and have been doing for many years," Dickenson said. "But now our curriculum will reflect that and perhaps provide additional resources and guidance."

Dickenson said that these changes were also important for Black students to see that they're a part of the nation and that people of color have made incredible impacts on America throughout history. He said that the history that's being taught needs to be reflective of the population and the diverse voices within it.

Scheikl said that these changes and the addition of the elective to RCPS will provide a more balanced view of history and can increase the understanding of social justice issues today.

"You become a more complete human being when you experience education in all its form," Scheikl said. "And that's a big effort across the board."

CONTACT Ashlyn Campbell at campbeab@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

"We have to recognize those hard truths about our past"

Beau Dickenson
Rockingham County social studies supervisor



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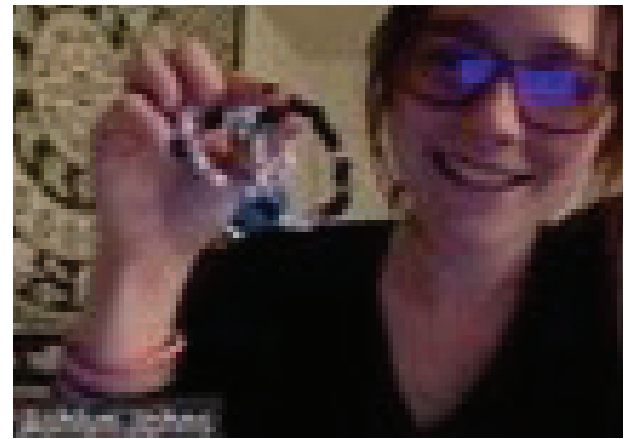
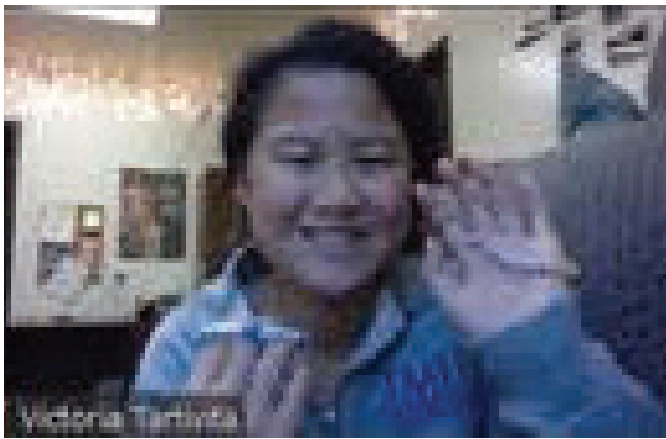
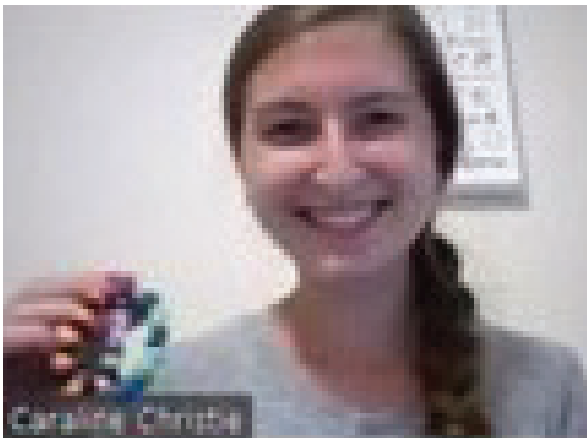


BreezeVideo

breezejmu.org

Thursday, December 3, 2020

Bracelets



JMU students send care packages to local retirement community

By **KAMRYN KOCH**
The Breeze

Eleven packages arrived at the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community in early November — each one carried a handwritten note, three beaded bracelets and a pinch of confetti.

JMU students put these packages together during a virtual event coordinated by RISE U, an organization affiliated with the local United Methodist faith community RISE, to create connections with seniors who may feel isolated because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“My goal was for students to feel like they were a part of something bigger than themselves but also to find some new friends,” RISE college and connections coordinator Christine Jones said.

Because RISE U is a new college ministry, Jones said she tried to think of a service event that’d attract and excite students while still being online. The idea to give to a retirement community came from her past working in senior services, Jones said, because she’s seen how lonely older adults can feel. She planned the event with RISE U intern and JMU alumna Ashlyn Johns (’20), who said she was excited about the idea

and the potential to form new connections between students and seniors.

Jones said she and Johns assembled supply boxes that were sent to 11 students who signed up. Along with stationary and bracelet supplies, Johns said each box included a padded envelope that was stamped and pre-addressed to the VMRC so the students would only have to seal it and put it in the mail to be sent.

The students opened their supply boxes on camera at the Oct. 24 event held over Zoom, Jones said, and went into breakout groups to get to know each other while making the bracelets. She said psychology professor Natalie Kerr also led a discussion on the science of loneliness, which Johns said both seniors and students may be feeling at this time because of the pandemic.

“I personally have been feeling super lonely in all of this,” Johns said. “It was a really, really nice way to create community.”

Johns said the bracelets are supposed to serve as a visual symbol for the senior residents so they’re reminded that they’re not alone. Rather than only making one, she said the students assembled three bracelets and encouraged their senior recipient to pass the extras along to others at the VMRC to create a “ripple effect.”

Students crafted bracelets to give to residents of the Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community. Photos courtesy of Christine

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breezejmu.org

Thursday, December 3, 2020

for impact



The packages were put together by students and then sent to Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community. Courtesy of Tribune News Services

Sophomore dance and psychology double major Caraline Christie, a student who participated in the event, said she had prior experience connecting with seniors. Growing up, she said she was part of a dance company that frequently performed at senior facilities and she enjoyed interacting with the residents. She also said she's been involved in a dance program at JMU where participants work with seniors with Parkinson's disease.

"With in-person visitation not being a reality anymore, I was really excited for the opportunity to find a new way to connect with [seniors], and this event seemed like a really great way to do that," Christie said.

Jones said the event was a success and that some students have continued to connect with RISE U, including Christie. She said she received emails from students afterward about their appreciation for the opportunity to give.

"It was a really beautiful event that just kind of got things rolling for us," Jones said.

"I still get warm fuzzies every time I think about it."

Although Jones said she hasn't heard any personal stories of correspondence yet, she has hope that some seniors will write back to the students. Christie said she's enjoyed writing letters since she was younger when she had pen pals because of how special it makes the recipient feel. She said she hopes to receive a letter back from her senior buddy in order to continue to create a meaningful relationship.

"I think I did it really as much for my joy as I did for theirs," Christie said. "It's really crucial to be able to find ways that we can kind of combat some of the effects of COVID-19, such as loneliness, in a way that can bring together multiple groups of people."

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Thursday, December 3, 2020



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

A **"you've-got-to-be-kidding-me"** dart to the deer that jumped out in front of my car on Interstate 81 as I drove back to JMU.

From someone who thankfully didn't crash.

A **"salvation!"** pat to my apartment and the three weeks I'll get to spend in it from now until the end of break.

From someone who missed Harrisonburg and my roommates the whole week I spent at home.

A **"next-time"** dart to myself for still not having the guts to give a compliment to the cute barista at Starbucks.

From someone who's going to man up next time, I swear.

A **"good-find"** pat to "The Queen's Gambit" for being an amazing show that kept me up all night as I binged it.

From someone who's in the process of getting all their friends to watch it, too.



Microaggressions against minorities are too prevalent and must end

JULIA CHENG | just julia



As a child, I remember my mother reading me "Yoko," a children's book that told the story of a cat bringing sushi, her favorite food, as her lunch to school. However, the other children gawked at her food and made nasty comments about her red bean ice cream.

Because I'm a third-generation American, I didn't face discrimination to the extent that my parents did. My father told me about how every day, kids used their fingers to stretch their eyes to mimic his and mocked him by saying "ching chong."

I don't know any of my ethnic languages, I don't know how to cook any traditional meals, and I have an American name. Despite how "whitewashed" I may be, I still look Asian, and I face discrimination. Since coming to JMU, the diversity has been different than what it's like in Northern Virginia. My entire life, I've been surrounded by students of many ethnic backgrounds and cultures; I was never the only person of color in a room.

Our country has progressed so much, but it faces a problem that's been invisible for a long time: microaggressions. Microaggressions are everyday, subtle

and usually unintentional comments or behaviors that rely on bias toward marginalized groups. Some common examples toward Asian Americans are comments about speaking English well, the assumption that they're good at math and the generalization and imitation of small eyes.

Derald Wing Sue said, there are three types of microaggressions. Microassaults are "characterized primarily by a verbal or nonverbal attack" and are seen as "an old-fashioned style of racism." Microinsults are "communications that convey rudeness and insensitivity and demean a person's racial heritage or identity." Microinvalidations are "communications that exclude, negate or nullify the psychological thoughts, feelings or experiential reality of a person of color."

Instead of blatant racism, microaggressions are much more common in the day-to-day lives of minorities. It's important to also include microaggressions in the conversation regarding racism to help prevent further stereotyping. Microaggressions also help to reinforce white privilege, especially when one says, "I don't see color."

To combat microaggressions, it's important to respond immediately to emphasize how it's inappropriate to say certain comments. If not immediately, then reply later to help educate on why it isn't OK. Although confrontation is nerve-racking, it's better to prevent those comments from being made to another minority and allowing for them to become

commonplace.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, racism has increased against Asian Americans, specifically those who are of East Asian descent. Even President Trump referred to the virus as the "kung flu," further associating it with China and pointing the blame at Asians. Even if they aren't Chinese, East Asians are clearly targeted based entirely on their appearance.

The biggest issue is how the perpetrator doesn't understand that they've done something wrong. Oftentimes, they think they're making a harmless joke and don't understand the concept of microaggressions and ignorance.

Microaggressions also play a role in mental health. A study by Harvard psychiatrists found that "microaggressions contribute to an onslaught of injuries to the psyche," leading to mental illness and even physical ailments. Additionally, according to the American Psychological Association, people of color who experience microaggressions "are likely to exhibit a number of mental health issues, such as depression or negative affect."

The most important thing to do now is educate others about microaggressions and why they're hurtful. It's also necessary to make common examples of microaggressions known so that people can readily avoid them and combat ignorance.

Julia Cheng is a freshman media arts and design major. Contact Julia at chengjm@dukes.jmu.edu.

Editorial Policies

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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.

Ruined release

Sony handled the release of the PS5 poorly, leaving customers angry instead of satisfied

EVAN HOLDEN | careful consideration



The PlayStation 5 had one of the most highly anticipated releases for a console in years, yet it ended up being one of the most poorly handled.

Not even a month after the initial release, the console was sold out everywhere, and the CEO of Sony, Jim Ryan, announced that the supply was gone. “Everything is gone,” Ryan said in a recent interview with Russian news agency Tass. “Absolutely everything is sold.”

Preorder Problems

One of the biggest problems was the preorders. On Sept. 16, the PlayStation Twitter account announced the PS5 release date, price and that preorders would be available the next day. Giving only a 12-hour notice on this massive of a release date through only a Twitter account would’ve been poor execution. What followed was worse.

Major retailers like Walmart and Gamestop decided that they’d open up the preorders early only hours after the announcement was made. Gamestop made the announcement for preorders before there was a page for customers to purchase a PS5. Its website also started to crash and block customers.

“Sony, you lost control and you betrayed your fans,” one user said on Twitter.

With potential buyers flooding into retail websites all at once, securing a preorder became close to impossible. Customers were declined at checkout as stock would disappear almost instantly or items were removed from their cart mid-purchase. Some even completed purchases but were sent a message afterward saying their purchase was incomplete and canceled.

“Your site is playing with my emotions and says OUT OF STOCK and I feel betrayed,” @e_vision said on Twitter.

Perhaps the worst situation one could be in was that after purchasing a preorder, which guaranteed the delivery of the PS5 console on or shortly after the release day Nov. 12, customers were sent messages saying the delivery around release was no longer guaranteed and that they’d receive the console whenever it was back in stock. These users beat the crowd to secure an online preorder, paid for the PS5, received confirmation of the preorder and then were told that they purchased an item that doesn’t exist.

Back in July, PlayStation worldwide marketing head Eric Lempel said that when preorders do become available, “It’s not going to happen with a minute’s notice.” Shortly after the preorder disaster, Sony issued an apology.

So why did a product with such an obvious high demand have so little supply? Sony said COVID-19 restrictions slowed production to some extent, so it’s hard to fault them for that. Ryan cited difficulties in working with factories located in Asia.

To give an idea of just how far behind or underprepared Sony was, the first week’s sales numbers can be examined. A week after release, the only sales numbers available are exclusive to Japan. After the first week, PS5 sales totaled just under 120,000 units. This was just about when Ryan announced that all units were sold. For comparison, the PS4 sold around 322,000 units when it was released in Japan back in 2013.

Major issues with the PS5

The PS5 has more major issues that aren’t related to distribution or production.

Moving on to hardware, users have started to notice that the storage on these devices is disappointingly small. The storage is advertised at 825GB of space, but after taking away space taken up by essential operating systems, users are left with 667.2GB. This amount will be fine to start with but will fill up fast over time as some of the most popular games are anywhere between 50GB and well over 100GB. “Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War” is 133GB and is one of the most anticipated PS5 games.

Another one of the biggest issues is with games and what’s happened to the price of them. It seems as though the industry standard price for major game releases has silently increased from \$60 to \$70. “Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War,” “Demon’s Souls” and “NBA2K21” are just a few examples of games priced at \$70. These games all had predecessors in their series that cost \$60 or less. As a reason for this price increase, Ryan said that prices for games historically have always gone up. This is incorrect. Just one example is how in the late ’90s, N64 games often retailed for \$70, and since then, Nintendo has almost never offered games for over \$60.

The PS5 launch was terribly mishandled and came with some noticeable downgrades to industry standards in hardware and prices. At least many customers won’t have to deal with these problems because they probably couldn’t buy a PS5.

Evan Holden is a sophomore political science major. Contact Evan at holdened@dukes.jmu.edu.



The PS5 was a highly-anticipated gaming console. Tristan Lorei / The Breeze



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Thursday, December 3, 2020

A Southern *icon*



Dolly Parton was born to a life of poverty and hasn't forgotten it, consistently using her wealth to donate and help others. Courtesy of Tribune News Service

Dolly Parton is an inspiration who's used her fame in all the right ways

SUMMER CONLEY | contributing writer



Parton's Stampede once. So I'd say I'm relatively familiar with her.

She's an icon in a multitude of ways. Parton's an inspiration to many who've seen themselves somewhere in her story.

Parton grew up in a one-room cabin on the Little Pigeon River in Pittman Center in Tennessee. She was the fourth of 12 children, born into a life of rampant poverty and hard choices. Like most Appalachian kids, Parton found familiarity in the music she shared with her parents and siblings. There's a certain importance of tradition and folklore that can only be passed down through song.

At age 10, Parton began to perform professionally. She appeared on local TV and radio shows around Knoxville, Tennessee. Three years later, she made her debut at the Grand Ole Opry where she was

Growing up in the South meant that I knew who Dolly Parton was before I knew my ABCs. I've seen her in concert, I've explored Dollywood and I even attended Dolly

mentored by Johnny Cash.

After high school, she immediately left for Nashville. The rest is history.

She's a songwriter, actress, businesswoman, philanthropist, author and icon. There are few people who can rival Parton's notoriety or popularity. She really does epitomize the American Dream.

Parton's distinct style and voice has inspired and influenced music and pop culture for the roughly 50 years that she's been in the spotlight. She's not just a musician, she's a brand.

Some of her earlier songs like "My Tennessee Mountain Home" or "Coat of Many Colors" describe the community and life of poor Appalachia. Her success is a testament to the greatness that can come from the hills. She represents accessible success. The core centrality of family and the themes of struggle resonate with people for a reason.

Her family was Pentacostal, something her and I share. Sunday mornings were bathed in hymns and melodies. That's how Pentacostals worship. Even though I'm no longer practicing, the unrestrained fervor of her voice evokes strong memories of congregation and community. This is her iconic power.

Beyond her musical success, Parton's a fierce philanthropist. Her nonprofit organization, "Imagination Library,"

focuses on childhood literacy, a legacy dedicated to her father who could neither read nor write. The program promises children a free book every month from the ages of zero to five. Since its creation, the nonprofit has sent out over 112 million books to children across the world. This is her legacy, too.

In addition to her nonprofit, Parton is renowned for her philanthropic work in nearly every other field. When a forest fire consumed the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, she organized her various companies to provide \$1,000 a month to the families who lost their homes. She isn't just a voice on the radio.

Dolly Parton's philanthropic work continues far beyond these two instances. She's donated to a multitude of causes that range from environmental conservation to medical research. Her philanthropy isn't a testament to her raw success but it rather speaks to her personal integrity and moral obligation to the world.

The South doesn't have many role models like Parton. She combines the best of tradition with a modern and universal love. When questioned about same-sex marriage, she responded, "Why can't they be as miserable as us heterosexuals in their marriages? Hey, I think love is love and we have no control over that ... I think people should be allowed to [marry]."

More recently, she even publicly changed the name of her dinner theater production. What was formerly known as Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede is now simply Dolly Parton's Stampede. Removing the harmful and stereotyped "Dixie" from her show was a moment of solidarity with the changing expectations of the South.

When she was questioned on her support of the Black Lives Matter movement, she said, "I understand people having to make themselves known and felt and seen ... And of course Black lives matter. Do we think our little white asses are the only ones that matter? No!"

Country music is forever changed by Parton. As the creator of over 800 songs, she's a powerhouse inside the studio and out. Her style and brand is as timeless as her music.

The South has a long and complicated history with maintaining relevance in the modern U.S. Parton is someone who represents her heritage and embraces her culture while respecting the world around her, even when it's different from her own. Children below the Mason-Dixon line can listen to "Jolene" or "9 to 5" and find a role model and hero in the voice behind the song.

Summer Conley is a junior public policy and administration major. Contact Summer at conleysr@dukes.jmu.edu.



Reducing the demand for meat will lessen damage to the environment. Breeze File Photo

WHAT'S AT STEAK?

Meat production causes environmental pollution

JENNA HORRALL | contributing writer



It's no secret that vegetarianism and veganism are on the rise, and the food market is taking notice.

In a 2019 study called the Harris Poll, researchers found that

4% of U.S. adults eat a vegetarian diet. The food market is responding to this change by offering more meatless and plant products such as Beyond Meat and almond milk.

Some people are beginning to switch to a vegetarian diet for the environmental concerns around the meat industry. In order to produce a single pound of beef, farmers use 2,500 gallons of water and 12 pounds of grain. This is an excessive use of water and could be redistributed to areas that lack access to freshwater sources.

Livestock production uses around 30% of the world's freshwater supply. Though it'd be ideal if all animals could access fresh water, 29% of people still don't have access to safe drinking water, and 6% of deaths in areas with low access are caused by unsafe water sources.

People tend to think that eating local is better for the environment regardless of whether the food is meat or not because gases released in the transportation process would be reduced. Though this should be taken into consideration, the carbon footprint for what happens on the farm — fertilizers, methane emissions from waste, etc. — has a much greater impact on greenhouse gas emissions.

In a study done by Nemecek and Poore in 2018, data was collected to produce a meta-

analysis of different types of food and their total greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) per kg of food product. They found that the most expensive food in terms of emissions was beef, which sat at 60 kg of GHG per kg of beef.

For every pound of beef produced, 60 kg of GHG are omitted in the process. This includes land use, farm processes, animal feed, factory processing, transport, retail and packaging. From the time the land is cleared for use to the point the meat is up for sale in the grocery store, beef production releases a massive amount of GHG emissions. Following beef in GHG emissions is lamb, cheese, beef (dairy), chocolate and coffee.

On the other end of the spectrum, the food included in this study that produced the lowest amount of GHG emissions was nuts. Following nuts are citrus fruit, apples, root vegetables, bananas and peas. Carbon dioxide emissions from plant-based foods can be as much as 10 to 50 times lower compared to animal-based foods.

Reducing meat consumption just one day a week can help reduce everyone's carbon footprint, lowering the demand for animal products and reducing the detrimental impact of the meat industry on the environment. Most people aren't interested in vegetarian or vegan diets because they were raised eating meat. Meat products are widely available and relatively cheap, but more plant-based meat options are entering the market quickly and at reasonable prices.

When making a meal at home or deciding what to order at a restaurant, consider eating a vegetarian or vegan dish, as it'll reduce your carbon footprint.

Jenna Horrall is a senior computer science major. Contact Jenna at horraljk@dukes.jmu.edu.

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Gaines strives to give a voice to the local homeless population by hearing their stories and sharing them with the community. Matt Young / The Breeze

From project to passion

Senior uses online platform to tell stories of homeless in Harrisonburg

By **JEAN LUTHER**
The Breeze

Becca Gaines loads up her car with donation bags full of items like clothing, blankets and toiletries. Then, she meets with the homeless community downtown, shares warm meals with them and listens to their stories.

What started off as research for a term project in an environmental history class changed when Gaines, a senior interdisciplinary liberal studies major, learned about hostile architecture, and something stirred inside of her.

Sitting in her environmental history class, Gaines was introduced to the concept of hostile architecture, and the more she learned, the more she felt like she needed to do something about it.

"I was appalled, basically, at how unethical it is to design buildings and benches to prevent people from using it," Gaines said. "So then I was really looking into why are people so against people experiencing homelessness in the first place."

Quickly into her research, she found a common denominator: people misunderstand the homeless, and Gaines wanted to figure out how to use her own lack of education on the homeless to teach others about it.

This led her to think about her own story and how people can connect through one another's experiences. She decided to create a platform called "Hello My Name Is" for homeless people to tell their life stories.

"I was like, OK, well, how can I give a voice to people who so often are neglected?" Gaines said. "So that's how [Hello My Name Is] got started."

The project was scrapped from Gaines' environmental class when she had to choose one specific type of hostile architecture to talk about, but that didn't stop her from continuing to work on this project on her own. She continued working on developing Hello My Name Is by building a website, an Instagram page and collecting donations for homeless people around Harrisonburg.

Abby Trowbridge, a junior IDLS major, was one of the first people Gaines called after having the idea for Hello My Name Is.

"I was really excited for her, and I could feel her excitement when she was explaining everything to me and her vision for it," Trowbridge said. "She had a greater vision for it to become a bigger thing than just a class project, which was really cool."

Gaines and Trowbridge led a Young Life group together. Gaines said Trowbridge had been "essential" behind-the-scenes with the project.

"I think it's really cool to see her interacting with the group of people that not a lot of people want to interact with," Trowbridge said. "She just does it because her heart is pure gold, and it's really cool to see how passionate she is about the whole thing."

After the startup and technical side of her idea came to fruition, Gaines began to meet homeless people in downtown Harrisonburg to hear their stories and try to make them feel known.

"Right now, it's been a lot more of going to speak with people," Gaines said. "I try to go, like, at least twice a week, and then I have a request form they can fill out."

When meeting with the homeless community, Gaines tries to bring warm food to share and is often accompanied by her friend Maxwell Johnson, a junior media arts and design major.

"I ended up having a project for class, and I had to make a PSA video, so I reached out to Becca and asked if she wanted one for her website or Instagram, and she said 'yes,'" Johnson said.

After Gaines agreed, Johnson joined her as she went downtown. On top of making the video, he also got to know some of the homeless community and join her mission.

"I've [gotten] to meet a lot of people that I would have never really even thought about talking to before or having an actual conversation with," Johnson said.

He said one woman he was talking with said that people look at them like they're a disease and that they don't belong.

"Another thing she said was just, like, 'If they only knew our stories, if they only knew our circumstances, they'd be a lot more understanding,'" Johnson said.

Originally, Trowbridge had connected Gaines and Johnson because

they were mutual friends. She said it spiraled into a new friendship.

"He came the first day with me," Gaines said. "Originally, we met one guy and walked around the corner and met 20 people."

Gaines said that the homeless people love Johnson and that in one situation, someone was speaking Spanish, and he was able to communicate with them.

"They have logistical needs," Johnson said.

"A lady today came up and said, 'I really need a pair of boots; these boots are just way too tight,' and Becca went and got Blundstone boots."

Gaines and Johnson said they've gotten to know the homeless people in downtown Harrisonburg and have been providing them with some necessities. Soon, they hope to start interviewing these people and get their stories out so others can have a better understanding of who they are.

"I wasn't planning on doing more than a couple of days of filming," Johnson said. "There were a lot of barriers broken in my own heart, and maybe assumptions, and I think that I'm expecting to just keep going because it is just so cool to experience."

Although Gaines is a senior, she plans to complete a master's program at JMU. She wants to continue working on Hello My Name Is to tell more people's stories, get to know them and work to make it sustainable after she leaves Harrisonburg.

"I'm looking into making it an official club on campus so it can easily get passed down," Gaines said. "One of my long-term goals is that someone anywhere could start a branch of Hello My Name Is and that it would be a model that someone else can easily follow."

Gaines said interviews are expected to happen within the next few weeks. After working with Johnson to edit videos and post to the website, stories will begin to be uploaded for the rest of the community to read.

"The glimpses of their stories are unimaginable," Gaines said. "I just know that if someone could look at someone who is standing on the street, or in any capacity, and knew or even had an idea of what their story could be, we would have such a different heart towards people."

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The Instagram became live on Oct. 12. Screen grab from Instagram

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Thursday, December 3, 2020

MARCH ON

JMU marching band stays busy without football games

By **MORGAN VUKNIC**
The Breeze

The Marching Royal Dukes' shows are beloved by many, and students, when walking by Bridgeforth Stadium surrounded by red and orange leaves, can enjoy their wonderful music. Although there wasn't any football this semester, the MRDs are staying busy.

Isaac Weissmann, a freshman secondary education major, said the main difference of practice this semester was the layout of rehearsals during the week. Weissmann said Mondays are sectionals, and the band was split into two separate groups on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Usually, everyone would practice together every day of the week except for Fridays.

"We have to abide by JMU COVID-19 guidelines with physical distancing and wearing masks when not playing," Ariel Collins, a sophomore music industry and performance major, said. "We've stayed conscious of others and made sure we were always staying safe when at practice."

Along with a different practice schedule and having to abide by the new rules, the MRDs don't have football games or competitions to prepare for and perform at. Since there weren't any games to look forward to, Weissmann said it can be hard to stay motivated.

"Everyone that marches with us wants to be there," Weissmann said. "They want to be more exciting, sound better, and they want the audience, either virtual or in person, to enjoy [the performance] more. I think that's ... what motivates me, is trying to put the best show on the field to make the most people happy."

The MRDs recorded their pregame show on the last day of practice before Thanksgiving break. Collins said it was a special socially distanced performance with hundreds of MRD parents so they could show off the hard work they put in

during the semester. She said it was great to see people in the stands again.

"Our last practice was the first time we got to actually play for people," Lydia Bergeron, a junior studio art major, said. "That's been a big thing; I was so excited when I found out. We didn't know if the administration was going to let us do it because of Northam's new orders, but they allowed it, and I just wanted to cry."

Although marching band practice isn't ideal right now, there are some benefits that came with the new schedule. Bergeron said that this season gave her more individual practice time since she's part of the front ensemble, which is the percussion section that's part of the front row of the band. She said the band has been able to focus more on the music since there isn't a set deadline they have to be prepared by.

"I think a pro from marching band being affected by COVID-19 is that we were able to overcome the obstacles we've been faced with, and we were able to create a great show despite the challenges," Collins said. "I think the new way of practicing has made me more aware of my surroundings and allowed me to still reach out to others who are around me if they need help setting drill or with music."

Weissmann said he originally joined the MRDs for the sense of community, to personally grow and to become better at his instrument. Although practice has been different this year, he said he's still grown as a musician and enjoyed making music with the MRDs.

"The music itself is really fun to play," Bergeron said. "We all have that kind of love for what we do, even when we don't get to play for people."

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"I think the new way of practicing has made me more aware of my surroundings and allowed me to still reach out to others who are around me if they need help setting drill or with music."

Ariel Collins

MRD & sophomore music industry and performance major



The Marching Royal Dukes have had to abide by COVID-19 guidelines during practice.



For its recorded pregame show, The MRDs performed in front of their parents. Photos courtesy of Ariel Collins

The man in the 'upstairs workshop'

Harrisonburg artist leaves his mark at sea, the U.N. and Oasis Fine Art & Craft



Badry said he enjoys interacting with people who take interest in his work at Oasis. Christine Brady / The Breeze

By **AVERY GOODSTINE**
contributing writer

In Oasis Fine Art & Craft in downtown Harrisonburg, a hidden gem can be found, quite literally, in a hole in the wall. Bahir Al Badry, one of Oasis' artists, sits in his upstairs workshop and overlooks the shop through a window as he works on new projects. Badry meets the people of the Friendly City by striking up conversations with anyone who takes an interest in his work.

Badry describes himself as an abstract artist who creates conceptual art that focuses on the ideas and emotions of human beings.

"I adopt the issues of the contemporary man, his concerns, happiness, problems and his aspirations," Badry said.

About a year ago, Spencer Law, a senior media arts and design major, and a friend wandered into the shop and spotted Badry through his workshop window.

"We ended up talking to him for a couple hours, showing us each of his works and what they meant," Law said. "He was one of the kindest people and was vulnerable about his life story and his experiences. He was very passionate about sharing his art and his story."

Barbara Camph, a fellow artist at Oasis, also shares a strong friendship with Badry after meeting him almost four years ago when he was browsing the shop.

"I like him so much," Camph said. "I've met his kids."

It wasn't long after Badry and Camph began talking about various pieces in the shop that a friendship followed.

"I have been so happy to see that people don't think [his art work] is strange," Camph said. "It's new and different, and they like talking to him to understand the symbolism."

Along with being an artist, Badry is also invested in climate change and was the Iraq representative for the United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change. He attended four different committees around the world. When he returned from the conventions, Badry presented what he'd learned to his country and even wrote a book in Arabic about what they needed to do in order to reduce their carbon footprint as a country.

This experience inspired Badry to create five paintings about climate change. One of them is on a medium-sized, rectangular canvas with eye-catching shades of red, grey and black.

"Here, it's CO2," Badry said as he pointed to two gray circles on the canvas. "The sun is angry at mankind."

He goes on to say that the group of people in the lower right corner of the canvas are from the climate change convention he attended.

"The convention is sick; it wants to die," Badry said. "Why? Because many countries don't care about the conventions, they don't implement what the conventions say to do."

Badry graduated from the University of Rijeka in Croatia as a marine engineer. From there, he went on to work on ships at sea all around the world for 20 years. This is where inspiration struck, and he began his career as an artist.

"The life is always there," Badry said. "It changes from place to place, from culture to culture."

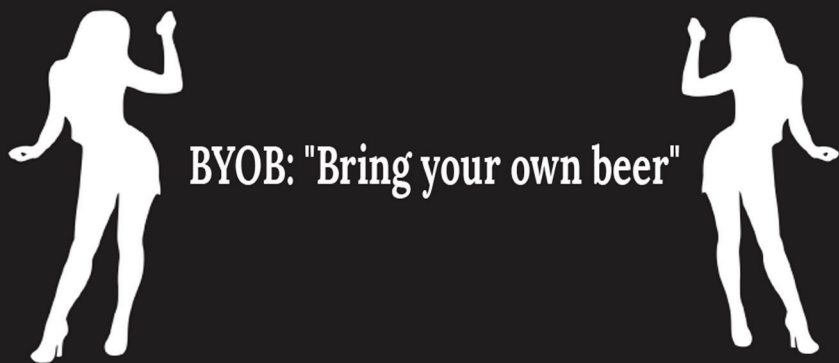
When he had free time on the ship, Badry said he'd create black and white sketches about his time at sea, love and his conscience, most of which he's displayed in his workshop. He said he still has all of his sketches from the ships and hopes to someday create an exhibit with them.

Badry's workshop walls are also covered in various sizes of his framed canvases. It's easy to see Badry's abstract style of creating people out of oblong shapes, vibrant colors and various doodles — reminiscent of hieroglyphics — to create detail. Bigger canvases are hung on the wall, while smaller ones are stood up on shelves. The longer one looks around the workshop, the more canvases seem to appear.

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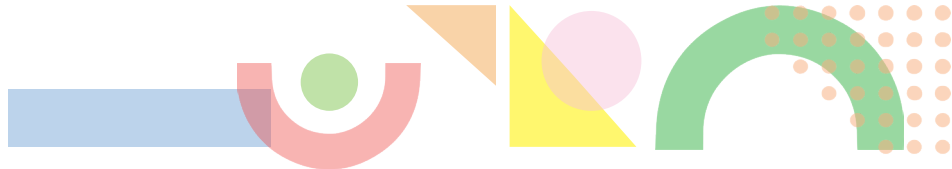
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Badry sits at his table right in the window of his workshop so he can easily see and converse with visitors as he works on new projects, one of which is a huge, rectangular canvas that's mostly covered in pencil sketches and only half painted with a bright yellow sun, some music notes and two people kissing.

This painting is different from the others, as it seems to start at the bottom and draws the eye upward to tell its story.

"It's talking about my wishes and my hope about the next day that there will be no more pandemics, no more masks, the people are happy," Badry said. "I showed the people are dancing. The musician here is playing music, and the kids and also the parents are celebrating that new times are coming for us."

The painting also depicts two lovers without masks embracing each other, with the sun rising in the background symbolizing happiness.

One aspect that Badry said he loves about having his workshop in Oasis is that he's able to show people what he does and explain the symbolism of all of his pieces.

"What made me happy was that the people here, they started to like and to love and to come ask about my style," Badry said. "My style is unique. We are talking about human beings. You have to stop and look at what is on the paintings and ask about the title and also discuss with the artist."

The workshop has also proven beneficial to

Oasis visitors. Camph remarked on how having an in-house workshop has been a positive experience to those who are interested in Badry and his work.

"Having his studio here makes all the difference," Camph said. "The experience of art is so much richer if you meet the artist."

Meeting the artist and speaking to him about his work leads to a deeper understanding and appreciativeness of the art.

Badry expressed how important it is for him to communicate with people who express an interest in his art because it creates an environment of bonding and understanding between the artist and the community. For Badry,

it's meaningful to him that the observer learns about the symbolism behind a piece and the artist learns from the observers about what things they noticed and what the piece means to them.

"I like the people and community here," Badry said. "I want to give them the experience to make them happy; that is very important to me. For me, when I make you happy and smile, that is my humility."

For this reason, Badry tries to participate in different events all around the city. Last year, he was asked to show his work at Hotel Madison for two months, and during the pandemic, he created a poster to sell to raise money for the doctors working on the front lines of COVID-19.

"I adopt the issues of the contemporary man, his concerns, happiness, problems and his aspirations."

Bahir Al Badry
Local Harrisonburg artist



Badry's studio is located on the second floor of the Oasis Fine Art & Craft building. Christine Brady / The Breeze

It's important to Badry that he can be a learning tool for anyone who wants to learn about art, and he said he's willing to start a workshop for JMU students. Overall, the community has been overwhelmingly accepting of Badry's work.

"Harrisonburg has embraced him," Camph said. "It's really great."

Badry feels that the words of another Iraqi artist, Ala Bashir, explain how Badry feels about his art the best:

"My artworks reflect my personal concept of the purpose of art: that art is not for entertainment; that art instead ought to provoke the mind, stir thought, on the meaning and purpose of our human existence; that art, like science, can and does play an important role in transforming

humanity for the better."

It's clear that Badry's style does exactly this through his use of detailed symbolism and intriguing motivations that promote a community of curiosity and communication.

"We have to send a message to the community that art is an important thing for people through this time to make them happy," Badry said. "When they are looking for the beauty, they come here to visit the exhibit."

CONTACT Avery Goodstine at goodstaj@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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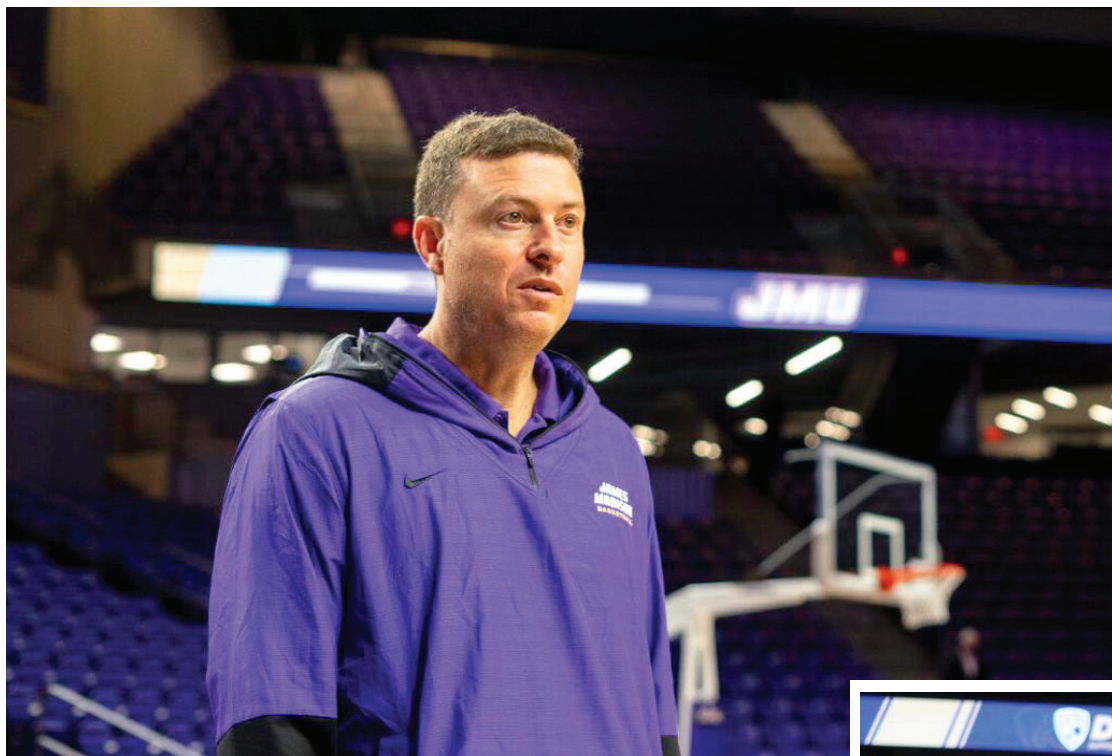


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Byington spent seven seasons at Georgia Southern before coming to JMU.
Tristan Lorei / The Breeze

Men's basketball is in the early stages of the Byington era, but shows encouraging signs



Vado Morse (right) won the 2018-19 NEC Rookie of the Year while at Mount St. Mary's. Courtesy of JMU Athletics Communications

By **NOAH ZIEGLER**
The Breeze

When the final buzzer sounded as JMU men's basketball defeated Radford 67-59, a sense of relief filled the Atlantic Union Bank Center. The Dukes established an early 16-point lead that Radford nearly erased in the second half, but clutch moments from senior guard Matt Lewis and junior guard Vado Morse prevented a collapse.

The Dukes squandered a 17-point lead at William & Mary in 2018, double-digit leads against Hofstra in 2019 and a 14-point advantage against Elon in the 2020 CAA Men's Basketball Tournament.

Each of those dissipated advantages were gradual yet encapsulated what the program endured: having promise and the pieces to turn around a program searching to return to prominence, but falling short of what it needed to do.

But Sunday night, JMU absorbed the pressure and responded when it needed to. A quick Highlander run would be matched by key shots to maintain a lead.

While it's still early into the peculiar 2020-21 season, maturity and poise was displayed by the Dukes to close out a victory against a Radford team coming off its third consecutive season with 20 or more wins, also being its fifth of the Highlanders' last seven campaigns.

The in-state rival saw its best player in senior guard Carlik Jones transfer to Louisville over the summer, but Radford still serves as a solid benchmark behind a consistently contentious

squad coached by Mike Jones — evident in the team's resilience despite falling behind JMU early.

"It proves to 'em that we can win a tough, grinded out, physical game," JMU head coach Mark Byington said following the Dukes' victory. "That wasn't pretty. That wasn't a 'Mona Lisa' of basketball games, but that was a gutty, gritty, tough game."

Rise to the occasion

Radford pulled within four with 7:50 remaining in the game. Then, senior guard Matt Lewis was sent to the free throw line. The Bishop O'Connell (Arlington, Virginia) product missed the first free throw, but sunk the second. Then, he rattled off three consecutive field goals, with the last being a physical drive to the rim to put the Dukes up 11 and force Jones to call a timeout.

Lewis has been a catalyst for JMU since he arrived in 2017, but this year he's playing with a new team and coaching staff that includes an array of transfers as well as freshmen. On Sunday, Morse showed how he too can take over the game when he needs to.

The Mount St. Mary's transfer followed Lewis' seven-point outburst with eight consecutive points: two free throws and two 3-pointers. Morse finished the game with 26 points — a career high — and showed that when the Dukes' lineup is clicking, the offense can establish the tempo from the opening tip.

"When we needed [Lewis], he stepped up to the plate and made a couple shots," Morse said. "But like I said, it takes a huge burden off

of him because I know last year, there was a lot put on him."

Byington said he liked how JMU played as a team; and with Morse, Lewis and sophomore forward Julien Wooden reaching double-digit scoring figures against the Highlanders, it shows how multi-faceted the Dukes can be.

"It's a testament to these guys and the talent this coaching staff put together," Lewis said. "I wasn't having the best offensive game, but these guys picked it up both offensively and defensively, and they kept us in the game."

Wooden finished with 13 points and seven rebounds, continuing his increased production from his freshman year. Freshman forward Justin Amadi has also shown his athleticism through three games, scoring 16 against Limestone and 10 versus Norfolk State. Against Radford, Amadi found himself in foul trouble early — limiting himself to 14 minutes.

It's still too early to properly evaluate the Dukes. Teams are still adjusting to practicing and trudging through barriers caused by the coronavirus, but come time for JMU's CAA slate to begin, Byington will get the chance to showcase what he has in store for the future of men's basketball.

More players still to come

JMU has rotated numerous players in order to get an idea of how players' minutes will fall as the season continues. However, there are still a few Dukes waiting to be

implemented into the lineup.

Sophomore forward Michael Christmas is returning from quarantine, junior guard Jalen Hodge is seeing minutes since returning from injury and redshirt senior guard Rashawn Fredericks is navigating the tail end of recovery.

"Rashawn Fredericks is getting close," Byington said. "We've been trying different things to help his knee and we think we kinda got a good remedy to be able to help rehab his knee and get him playing."

Junior forward TJ Taylor — a transfer from Wyoming — is also waiting in the wings, but his delay isn't injury or coronavirus-related. Byington said Taylor played as a center at Wyoming, but he wants to convert the Chesapeake, Virginia, native to a perimeter player who plays as a three or four.

Once Byington has his full roster at his disposal, he'll have the luxury of having what seems to be a deep Dukes lineup. In a year where COVID-19 exposure can force players into quarantine at any moment, depth will be a determining factor in how JMU will compete against a testy non-conference schedule and a challenging CAA slate.

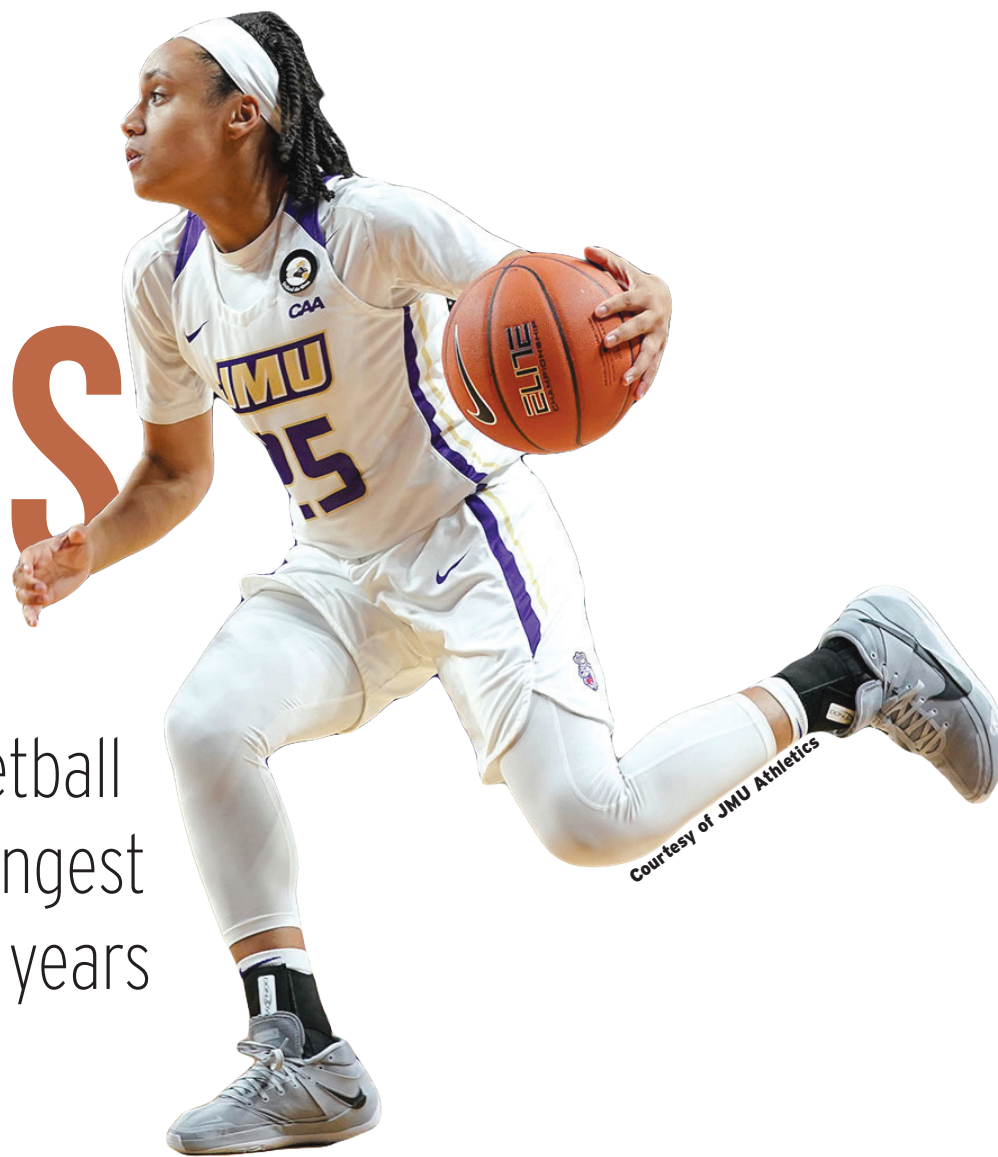
"This is gonna be a year where you're gonna have guys out almost every game," Byington said. "Hopefully not with COVID[-19], but it's a possibility. And injuries, games and things like that, our depth is going to be tested."

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



NEW FACES

Women's basketball starts with youngest team in recent years



By **MADISON HRICK**
The Breeze

Now that the JMU women's basketball season is underway, the roster has begun to take shape. Among the mix are four transfer students and five freshmen who are all ready to step into games and make their mark.

The young JMU team shows contention among strong competitors, including Mount St. Mary's and Buffalo, which the team took on as its first two games. The team went 1-1 with the two opponents but brought to light the potential of the new players.

A player who quickly caught fans' eyes is freshman guard Jamia Hazell. She joined the team after a successful high school career, including making EPSNW's 2020 class at No. 85 and being named the She Got Game MVP three times. Since making her debut as a Duke, Hazell has scored 32 points and been a constant threat on the court. This early presence allowed her to earn her first CAA Rookie of the Week honors.

Since her debut, Hazell compares to many previous Dukes, including Kamiah Smalls. She has the ability to become a major threat for JMU and has already done so in two games played. Her speed and agility on the court has allowed for her to have big opportunities throughout both games. However, Hazell's biggest strength is her ability to read the court well, which was evident during that matchup against Buffalo on Monday afternoon. She gave

herself multiple breakaway opportunities that contributed to JMU's comeback attempt in that same game.

"Jamia is someone I can really look to," sophomore guard Kiki Jefferson said. "We feed off of each other's energy, and we try to get everyone involved, and once we get everyone in, then there's really no stopping us."

Another player who's been an eye-catcher is redshirt junior guard Brianna Tinsley. Although she's only played one game so far this season,

she's been one of the most talked about transfers on the roster. Coming from UVA, Tinsley had been a major factor in the Cavaliers' success prior to her transfer in 2019. She started in 27 of 31 games and scored an average of seven points per game. Once arriving at JMU, Tinsley didn't participate in games during the 2019-20 season because of the NCAA transfer regulations, making this season her JMU debut.

"We rely on the freshmen to push us through. And I think that says a lot about how good we're going to be, and that's what gets me excited about this team."

Sean O'Regan

JMU women's basketball head coach

Beginning her first game against Buffalo, Tinsley showcased a small taste of her offensive and defensive training as well as her athleticism. Her presence on the court is commanding and steals the chance for an opponent to react.

Tinsley will be seen more leading up to CAA play in January, including Thursday's game against her former team in Charlottesville.

The Dukes welcomed two graduate students onto their roster this season, guard Anne Diouf and forward Morgan Smith. Coming in from Georgia Tech and Georgetown, respectively, the two players look to bring depth

and leadership to the roster. Having Diouf and Smith on the roster gives the underclassmen leadership on court along with the coaching staff on the sidelines.

"The team is young and needs a leader with that experience," Diouf said. "Kiki [Jefferson] and I were able to help bring some energy into the locker room, and I think that really helps us."

Freshman guard Peyton McDaniel looks to make an early impact on the team

in her freshman campaign. Starting in both games so far this season, McDaniel has been an early defensive help for JMU. Already recording 10 rebounds, two blocks and a .750 accuracy in free throws, McDaniel shows promise of being a physical and strong member of the starting roster.

"We rely on the freshmen to push us through," head coach Sean O'Regan said. "And I think that says a lot about how good we're going to be, and that's what gets me excited about this team."

New faces show what depth they can bring to the squad this season. Although many of the 2019-20 roster have graduated and there's now a younger roster than in years past, the team shows its capable of competing against more experienced teams and can do so successfully. There are four games left in the schedule until CAA play begins in January, making early team connection essential for a chance at a fourth consecutive CAA regular season championship.

"I think I'm getting more comfortable on the court," Hazell said. "Even though we've lost, we're still going to learn from our losses and bounce back as a team."

The team faces UVA in Charlottesville on Thursday, then holds a two-game homestand before traveling to West Virginia to close out its out-of-conference slate.

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Thursday, December 3, 2020



Mahomes leads the league in passing yards with 3,497. Photos courtesy of Tribune News Service

KINGS OF THE LEAGUE

Through 12 weeks of the NFL, Patrick Mahomes and Aaron Rodgers are the best quarterbacks



Rodgers won the 2011 Super Bowl – the only one of his career.



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By **ANDREW OLIVEROS**
The Breeze

Despite living in a world with COVID-19, the NFL has made it nine weeks into the 2020-21 season and plans to keep persevering, even when COVID-19 issues come into play. It's been quite a season so far.

Quarterback Tom Brady is in a Tampa Bay Buccaneers uniform, the AFC East isn't dominated by the Patriots any longer, with the Buffalo Bills at first, and the Pittsburgh Steelers are undefeated. Even though this NFL season is like no other, there are certain quarterbacks who are dominating on the field and hard to stop.

Through 12 weeks, here are the best QBs in the NFL, so far.

Mahomes still reigns

Kansas City Chiefs' quarterback Patrick Mahomes has played like he's a man among the boys through nine games. He has the most passing yards with 3,497 and with only two interceptions, he has the third-most passing touchdowns with 30 and he has the best quarterback rating at 86.2. Mahomes has also led his team to the second best record in the NFL at 10-1.

Mahomes' success has not been a walk in the park. He's gone up against elite pass rushers such as Houston Texans' defensive end JJ Watt, Los Angeles Chargers' defensive end Nick Bosa and Carolina Panthers' defensive end Brian Burns. With such pressure, Mahomes still threw nine touchdowns against these defenses.

Mahomes had quite a performance on Monday Night Football against a top defense in Baltimore. He threw for four touchdowns with no interceptions. He went up against Pro-Bowler Calais Campbell, two

top-cornerbacks in Marlon Humphrey and Marcus Peters, and top-tackler on the team, rookie linebacker Patrick Queen.

Rejuvenated Rodgers

The Packers drafted their potential future quarterback Jordan Love in the first round of the 2020 NFL Draft, but they didn't draft one wide receiver to help Rodgers out on the field. Green Bay Packers' quarterback Aaron Rodgers proved doubters that he's the "guy" in Green Bay despite the odds against him.

Rodgers has the most touchdowns with 33, with only four interceptions. He has the best quarterback rating in the NFL at 85.2. Rodgers threw for two or more touchdowns in 10 out of the 11 games he played.

Rodgers also doesn't have any top-10 wide receivers to throw to except wide receiver Davante Adams. Adams was out because of injury in Week 3 against the New Orleans Saints and Week 4 against the Atlanta Falcons. Despite such adversity, Rodgers threw for seven touchdowns in those two games without Adams. Rodgers showed that he can still be a good quarterback and lead his team to victory even if he doesn't have much talent around him.

With half of the 2020-21 NFL regular season over, Mahomes and Rodgers look to continue their success in a season like none other and look to hopefully bring the Lombardi Trophy back to their city. Rodgers is proving he can still be an elite quarterback in his No. 15 season in the NFL and that he'll not just give up his job to a rookie quarterback. Mahomes is in his third year of the NFL and is proving that even if you're a young player, nothing is impossible, as he's looking to get his second Super Bowl in three years.

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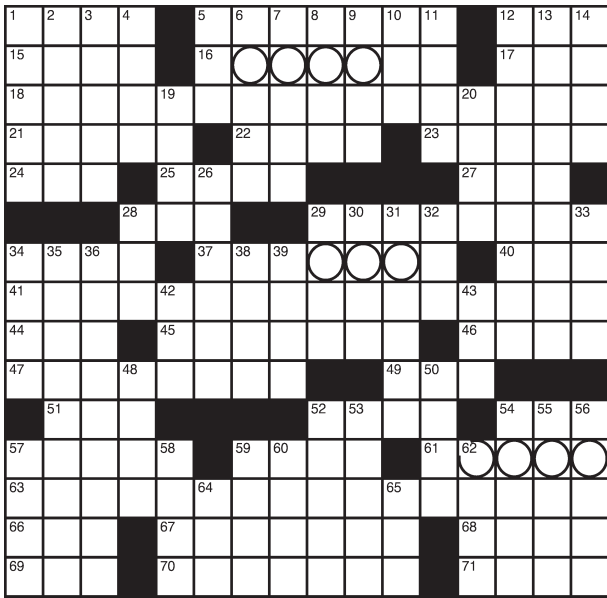
Thursday, December 3, 2020

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 It's not clear
- 5 Strategic corporate name change
- 12 Expert
- 15 Arm bone
- 16 Outshine
- 17 Cornish game
- 18 Home of the highest terrestrial biodiversity
- 21 Partner of mirrors
- 22 What duct tape has a lot of
- 23 Computer operating system with a penguin mascot
- 24 Color like khaki
- 25 Little helper?
- 27 Identify
- 28 Texter's segue
- 29 Building up
- 34 3-Down concern
- 37 ICU hookups
- 40 19th Greek letter
- 41 Airbag, e.g.
- 44 Craft measured in cubits
- 45 What chefs do often
- 46 Single-file travelers, at times
- 47 "King Arthur's Song" musical
- 49 Red or Ross
- 51 Were, now
- 52 Baja's opposite
- 54 ___ Mahal
- 57 Chew out
- 59 Fast-food option
- 61 Extra
- 63 Superior ... or what this puzzle's circled letters represent?
- 66 Relations
- 67 Part of the CMYK color model
- 68 Bassoon cousin
- 69 It can cover a lot of ground
- 70 Specter
- 71 Puts on



By Kevin Salat

12/3/20

- 5 Rock's ___ Speedwagon
- 6 Beige relatives
- 7 Hallowed
- 8 What yeast makes dough do
- 9 Bldg. units
- 10 Situation Room gp.
- 11 "You're on!"
- 12 Do the minimum
- 13 Vile
- 14 Black stone
- 19 Bowling a 300, e.g.
- 20 Pinches
- 26 Turn while seated
- 28 MLB scorecard entries
- 29 Wonder Woman adversary
- 30 Drops above the ground
- 31 H.S. exam for college credit
- 32 Georgia, once: Abbr.
- 33 Courage
- 34 Apt rhyme for "aahs"
- 35 Italian dish of thinly sliced raw meat or fish

- 36 Do some informal polling
- 38 Quash
- 39 "Fiddlesticks!"
- 42 George's musical brother
- 43 Energizer size
- 48 Liquefy
- 50 State of comfort
- 52 Secret ___
- 53 Numbers game
- 54 Fitness portmanteau
- 55 Burning issue?
- 56 Ballet leaps
- 57 Upscale retailer
- 58 Slightly soggy
- 59 Frat party costume
- 60 One may be self-cleaning
- 62 Spur
- 64 Cry of disgust
- 65 Western omelet morsel

DOWN

- 1 Rupture
- 2 Cub : bear :: cria : ___
- 3 Group with a rep
- 4 Arrange in order

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Level **1** **2** **3** **4**

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

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