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Students on both sides of the tape

Student volunteers at Hose Company No. 4 recall their experiences of the March 28 Southview fire



PHOTOS BY TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

Brent Davis (above) was one of the nine student volunteer firefighters who arrived to the scene of the Southview fire.

By **SHANNA KELLY**
The Breeze

It was a sweatpants kind of day — or so she thought. Heather Pruim ran out of UREC, gripping her backpack. She hopped in her car and frantically drove toward Devon Lane. Stuck in Port Republic traffic, she tapped her foot on the floorboard, waiting for the lights to change, her eyes on the smoke through her windshield. She threw her car in park behind Eagle Carpet and retrieved her equipment from the back of her car.

As she tied her hair back before tucking it beneath her hood, she thought to herself, “Don’t let my hair light me on fire today.” She then stepped into her boots and pulled her Nomex pants up over them.

Then, she ran a half mile uphill toward the smoke.

The fire was blowing through the roof of 1083 Lois Lane, forming a huge ball of smoke. While many students lined up behind the yellow tape at Thursday’s Southview fire, nine student volunteers were inside the tape under 25-pound gear and carrying 30-pound heavy packs with oxygen.

Among these student volunteers for Hose Company No. 4 was junior communication studies major Pruim, senior integrated science and technology major Brent Davis and junior engineering major Chris Smith. Their helmets may have made them indistinguishable, but they were Dukes saving Dukes.

When Davis was walking up to the scene, a girl told him that her cat was on the third floor and asked him to save it. This was one of the

biggest fires Davis had ever seen — he knew as he walked away from the girl toward the fire, the third floor was gone.

“I knew right away that there was nothing on the third floor,” Davis said. “You tell them that you’re going to do everything you can, but in the back of your mind, you just know that there’s nothing on the third floor.”

For Davis, this moment and seeing everyone behind the tape “crying and hurting” was the hardest part about that day.

“You’re supposed to be ... a saving grace to them. It just, it can be tough,” Davis said.

After handing in their accountability tags on site, one of Pruim and Davis’ jobs was salvage — trying to save as much as possible from the damage. Pruim said most of the damage that goes along with fires is from the water, not the fire itself. So, as a part of the salvage process, they covered as much as they could with tarps such as furniture — or in Pruim’s case, pictures.

“I always really try to save pictures because I feel like that has more sentimental value,” Pruim said. “Being, like, that it’s a college student living space, even if it’s like a pass-down of a painting from your ‘Big’ or something, like, I feel like that’s what people care about.”

Pruim hopes to have made even a small difference for those affected but is also grateful that apart from a few pets, only material possessions were destroyed in the fire.

“We try to do all we can, and sometimes, you know, stuff does get lost,” Pruim said. “But luckily, no people were lost. So, you

can replace, you know, objects, but you can’t replace people.”

Around 7:15 p.m., after a long day of fighting the fire at Southview, a white fire truck — part of what they call the “great white fleet” — could be seen on its way to Texas Roadhouse.

But it’s more than the Southview fire and fighting fires.

It’s training together, spending nights at the firehouse, finding people who’ll answer that 1 a.m. call or taking one of the “great white fleet” trucks out so a peer can practice their driving.

Ironically, their friends’ group chat is called “everyday heroes” — a joke Pruim explains is contrary to her reality.

“Joining the fire department is when you’re a hero. Anything beyond that is just, like, line of duty,” Pruim said.

These “everyday heroes” are also part of the JMU firefighters club. The club isn’t affiliated with the fire department, but while the club itself doesn’t fight fires, some of the members volunteer for Hose Company No. 4. The club offers students training and opportunities to become certified through the fire academy. This is the club’s fourth year, and in the last year alone it’s grown from 12 to 42 people. Pruim is the president of the club, and Davis and Smith are members.

While Smith had wanted to be a firefighter since he was little, he didn’t start until he joined the club his freshman year. He officially became certified spring of his sophomore year and said that when he first started, he was warned that he’d be hooked.

“It’s so addicting,” Smith said. “It’s not so much the adrenaline rush of, like, being in a fire ... it’s the helping people part.”

Smith is now a volunteer and a captain for Hose Company No. 4, a part-time firefighter for Rockingham County and is continually looking to improve.

“The community expects the best out of us, so if we’re not training when we’re not on calls, then that’s an issue because we have to be prepared for whatever we arrive on scene to,” Smith said.

Pruim, a fourth-generation firefighter, joined her local fire department at age 16 and recently had her four-year anniversary as a firefighter. When she started, she was the first female to be a part of the junior fire department. While being a female has made her work twice as hard and demand respect, she, by no means, lets this identify her.

“My big thing that I really want to emphasize is that it’s no different than being a male firefighter. I believe in equality, and I think that really helped push me to be where I am today.”

Pruim additionally believes in separating JMU and firefighting in her life. She lives what she calls a double life: She’s a firefighter, a student involved in Bluestone Communications, a member of Alpha Sigma Tau and a UREC employee.

Davis’ interest in firefighting, on the other hand, was sparked by flames. He was around 10 years old, and it was Christmas dinner at his grandpa’s when the chimney caught fire. Davis explained that when the firefighters showed up, they made everyone feel calm.



Chris Smith (above) worked with volunteer and career fire fighters to contain the fire.



Once the fire was contained, Heather Pruim (above) gave a thumbs up to the rest of the crew.

Davis, who's also a Captain for Hose Company No. 4, said that instead of joining a fraternity, he joined the fire department, which became his brotherhood. Since becoming captain, he's had the chance to foster those values.

"It's made me grow; it's made me learn a lot more," Davis said. "It's kinda showed me how a fire department should be ran and how, you know, how to keep the brotherhood going."

Although Davis has wanted to be a firefighter since he was in middle school, he doesn't plan on being a career firefighter since the pay isn't the best. Chris is contracted to the Air Force through ROTC, but one of his roles in Air Force civil engineering will be to oversee the fire department and says there's a possibility he'll return to it in the future. Pruim also doesn't plan on making a career of it but looks to volunteer as long as she's physically able.

But for right now, the three still work approximately 35 hours per week and relish in the opportunity.

"You can get a certificate, which is great, but you're not gonna get what you need unless you get that experience, and that comes with time," Davis said.

For Pruim, this experience is a passion project. For Davis, this is a brotherhood. For Smith, this is a blessing. For all of them, this is family.

"If you crawl through fire with somebody, if you're standing out in the rain directing traffic, if you're seeing gory things that not every person sees on the day-to-day, you really bond, and these JMU firefighters are my best friends," Pruim said.

CONTACT Shanna Kelly at breezepr@jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.



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Naps turned nightmares

Kelly Vila (above) was one of the students who was taking a nap when the fire began. With little time to get out safely, Vila ran out barefoot.

PHOTOS BY TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

By **TRISTAN LOREI AND KATELYN WALTERMYER**
The Breeze

Dozing in and out of sleep, it wasn't until the second round of loud knocks at Danielle Mudd's door — this time accompanied by yelling — that she went to investigate. She didn't think much of it due to a lack of alarms going off in her building — 1083 Lois Lane — or any other warnings, but upon opening the door, she was greeted by huge flames crawling up the side of the building.

Adam Suraz, a resident on the second floor, entered his kitchen for a bottle of water when he first smelled smoke. Seeing a cloud covering his deck, he attributed it to neighbors grilling below him and thought nothing of it. It wasn't until the second time he left his room that he noticed the flames. Suraz immediately yelled as loudly as he could and pounded on all of his neighbors' doors on his floor and those above him to warn anyone who may have still been inside.

Down a floor and one apartment to the left from Mudd, Kelly Vila was woken up to a similar sound of frantic knocking accompanied by her roommate's quaking voice. When she opened the door, a rush of black smoke hit her face.

"I couldn't believe what was happening," Vila, a senior economics major, said. "That has really been the worst experience of my life."

At 12:06 p.m. in Stuarts Draft, Ian Bennett, the fire chief of the city of Harrisonburg, was eating lunch with the deputy chiefs from neighboring counties when the first call came in. At first, it didn't seem like anything out of the ordinary, until he heard from the

sheriff's deputy that they had declared it a two-alarm fire, which adds three more engines, another ladder truck and a battalion chief — doubling the amount of a one-alarm. They immediately responded and headed to the scene.

Upon arrival, the battalion chief updated Bennett on the current status of the fire. By this time, it had surpassed the third alarm — due to exposures on either side of the building — and was subsequently declared a four-alarm fire, due to the delay in the arrival of volunteer firefighters.

Students were instructed to stay behind police tape in a section of the parking lot in front of the Southview Clubhouse, directly across from the building. Mudd, a junior psychology major, stood by with only her purse, Suraz couldn't handle watching his apartment burn, so he went to his friend's house, and Vila, who was shoeless, watched with only her phone. From there, residents looked on as the firefighters hosed down the burning building — its roof already partially collapsed.

"We had two ladder trucks being set up, which require separate water supplies," Bennett said. "We were getting ready to put a third one up for the building on the right, when we didn't have an extra engine, so we called a fifth alarm."

The Harrisonburg Police Department and Southview management immediately began calling all 43 residents of 1083 Lois Lane. Bennett said within 35 minutes, they had contacted every one of them. Due to the gravity of the fire on the third floor, this came as a relief to the fire department, because it meant they could cease their efforts to reach the now completely-engulfed top level.



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Danielle Mudd (above) was asleep when the fire began and only grabbed her purse.

Bennett said the fire alarms in the building may not have initially sounded due to the fire starting outside the building and working its way up to the attic, which isn't required by law to have smoke detectors, sprinklers or fire alarms. Due to the damage the building sustained, it's unlikely the exact reason to why the fire alarms didn't sound will be discovered. All that has been disclosed as of now is that the fire was caused by the "improper disposal of smoking material," according to the Harrisonburg Fire Department.

For Mudd, Suraz and Vila, the hardest obstacle for them was similar to many others affected: saying goodbye to most, if not all, of their valuables, which in some cases included pets.

"The fact that a cigarette just destroyed so many people's lives [gives]

me a breakdown," Mudd said.

Since March 28, the Harrisonburg community has rallied around those affected. Through clubs organizing fundraisers and the GoFundMe page, the community has shown its continual support of the residents of 1083.

"Words can't even express how grateful I am for the people in this community because it's like, 'Dang, people really care like that.' It's like, they've never even met me or met any of us, but they're still donating," Suraz said. "That just means a lot."

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Two students who were asleep when the fire began and another who scavenged the building, warning residents of the fire, discuss their experiences



Adam Suraz (above) was awake when the fire happened, and he knocked on doors on all floors to warn others.

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Ending the cycle

Harrisonburg announces
stricter recycling guidelines

The Harrisonburg Recycling Center is no longer accepting No. 3-7 plastics.

By **MATTHEW SASSER**
The Breeze

In a press release on April 1, Harrisonburg announced it will no longer accept co-mingled plastics and glass.

Harrisonburg and Rockingham County reached out to other recycling companies throughout the commonwealth but were unable to find a partner. This announcement follows Augusta, Waynesboro County and the city of Staunton who issued a similar statement on March 21.

"The people that accept our plastic, Sonoco Recycling, is no longer accepting glass or plastic," Tom Sliwoski, director of public works in Staunton, said. "We will still accept glass as part of our operations, and it will be recycled at our landfills."

Sliwoski said they saw this problem coming for a few years. Glass has never had any value, and the city was paying money to get rid of their mixed plastics.

This change in recycling practice isn't just happening in the Shenandoah Valley but across the nation. It's an economically driven decision to not recycle certain products which could change in the next few months or years,

depending on the market.

China also announced that it will no longer accept large quantities of recycled plastic from the U.S., which has caused instability in the market. According to CNBC, The U.S. exported \$5.6 billion worth of scrap to China in 2016.

According to Harsit Patel, support services manager at Public Works in Harrisonburg, the Harrisonburg recycling center is no longer accepting no. 3-7 plastics, which aren't accepted due to China's decision.

"Those are lower grade plastics that don't have any market value," Patel said. "It's very difficult to find a buyer for it. If you don't have enough volume of a specific product, you're not able to sell it for a marketable value. You have to landfill it."

China recently increased its contamination threshold for recycled materials it accepts into its country. The trickle-down effect is that recycling companies in the U.S., such as Sonoco Recycling, can no longer take unsorted plastics, which affects their process.

"The reason the plastic is not recycled very well in this country is because there is not a very good business model," Hao Zhang, assistant professor of integrated sciences and technology at JMU, said. "The facilities aren't

making enough money — that's a problem."

Zhang, who has a background in industrial stability systems and waste management research, said Japan can recycle 80% of plastics by themselves. It can do this because the products it makes out of recyclable materials have more value.

"For recycling materials, we should not just rely on the government," Zhang said. "If every one of us takes responsibility to self-educate about plastics, it would save a lot of time and effort."

Sliwoski recognizes that certain people may be upset about a reduction in the amount of recycling in the area, but states that it's an economic-driven decision. Consumers, as well as the industry, produce the types of plastic that are most popular to use, but also have the least market value.

"We're all working together collectively to maintain and, if at all possible, improve the program in these difficult recycling times," Patel said.

CONTACT Matthew Sasser at sasserma@dukes.jmu.edu. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

JMU wide receiver pleads no contest to misdemeanor charge

By **CATIE HARPER & NOAH ZIEGLER**
The Breeze

Riley Stapleton, a wide receiver for the JMU football team, pleaded no contest to a Class-2 misdemeanor charge of false imprisonment Tuesday at the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas.

Stapleton is accused of holding a woman against her will at a June 2017 house party in Indiana, Pennsylvania — his hometown. According to the Indiana Gazette, Stapleton kept the

victim in the bathroom of the house and tried to touch her indecently two different times.

At one point during the incident, Stapleton pushed the victim against the bathroom counter with "all his weight" and later pushed her into the shower, according to a criminal complaint filed by special agent April-Noelle Campbell that was cited by the Indiana Gazette.

Following the incident, Stapleton, now 22, told police over the phone that he had no memory of the incident, citing that he "blacked

out" from drinking alcohol, the newspaper reported. The no-contest plea means Stapleton accepted the conviction but didn't admit guilt.

Stapleton will serve one year of probation and is required to attend anger management and drug-and-alcohol evaluations. The rising redshirt senior will also pay \$903.75 in fines and court costs, according to a sentencing report.

"We are aware of the legal proceedings and this week's court findings involving one of our football student-athletes, Riley

Stapleton," JMU Athletics said in a statement. "We are extremely disappointed in Riley's actions, and will issue punishment in line with the court's findings. We will be meeting with the student-athlete to communicate his punishment and then will release that accordingly."

CONTACT Catie Harper & Noah Ziegler at breezesports@gmail.com. For more coverage of JMU and Harrisonburg news, follow the news desk on Twitter @BreezeNewsJMU.

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Has Amelia Earhart been found?

Conspiracy theories about the famed pilot continue to rise

Bones found on Nikumaroro Island might belong to the long-lost aviator.

KAT ELLIS / THE BREEZE

DIANA WITT | couldn't help but wonder



From a young age, Amelia Earhart showed her determination to defy expectations. As a child, she collected newspapers about women who succeeded in male-dominated fields like business and science. Full of grit and tenacity, she channeled her passion into aviation, attempting to become the first woman to fly around the world.

Navigator Frank Noonan accompanied her on the trip. On July 2, 1937, the pair disappeared without a trace, launching the most extensive air and sea search in naval history. While scientific breakthroughs suggest that recovered skeletal remains could belong to Earhart, there's no certainty as to what happened to her. The conspiracies

surrounding the Amelia Earhart case still hold the potential to be true explanations of the mysterious disappearance.

Bones found on Nikumaroro Island, a remote island in the Western Pacific Ocean near where Earhart and Noonan were last heard from, could belong to Earhart. The remains, found in 1941, were initially analyzed by scientists and thought to have come from a man. Scientists engaged in debates over following testings of the bones, as they were inconclusive about whether the bones were male or female. After further investigations of the arm and leg bones in 2018, Doctor Richard Jantz of the University of Tennessee concluded that the bones were likely Earhart's. Using the measurements of her clothing, Jantz believes there is good evidence that the bones belong to her. However, there are still no tests scientists can use to fully prove that the bones were hers.

Conspiracy theories continue to resurface even though it's been 80 years

since her disappearance. These compelling conspiracies offer explanations for the failed flight attempt. One theory posits that Earhart and Noonan crash-landed on the Marshall Islands and subsequently died after being held hostage by the Japanese government in Saipan. Some theorists even claim that Earhart and Noonan were executed. In 2017, a photo of Earhart and Noonan in the Marshall Islands was discovered in the National Archives. The photo was allegedly taken days after their disappearance, which would discount them dying in a crash.

A man named Tun Akin Tuho worked in the prison where Earhart and Noonan were allegedly held captive. Tuho states that their arrival caused commotion. There are dozens of other witnesses who describe various run-ins with Earhart, and they all attest that the aviator survived the landing.

This theory could explain the lack of evidence of the crash, as it could've been destroyed by the Japanese government. It's unclear,

however, why the Japanese government would have taken Earhart and Noonan, as they didn't pose a clear threat.

NBC News reports, "The official belief by the U.S. government is that Earhart and Noonan crashed into the Pacific Ocean while attempting to reach Howland Island, which is approximately 946 miles from the Marshall Islands and approximately 406 miles from Nikumaroro Island." While Earhart and Noonan have been presumed dead, it's uncertain how they died and what went wrong.

Inconclusive evidence continues to offer possible explanations. While some theories are outlandish, others are substantiated by convincing claims. What happened to Amelia Earhart, Frank Noonan and their plane still remains a mystery to this day. The details of the case continue to puzzle theorists 80 years later.

Diana Witt is a freshman theatre and media arts and design double major. Contact Diana at wittdr@dukes.jmu.edu.

Editorial Policies

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Chick-fil-A pushes politics

Corporations should be impartial with their beliefs

ELIZA MACKNIGHT | two cents worth



In the current political climate, it is unusual and difficult for people to stay out of the world of politics, regardless of whether or not they want to. Because of the heated debates that come from this nationwide political divide, many feel their morals and beliefs are constantly being challenged from the opposite side of the spectrum, and rush to defend themselves. While people holding high positions in companies and corporations obviously hold their own beliefs, it's unfair to the general public for them to push these beliefs onto consumers.

Within the past few years, companies such as Hobby Lobby have received attention after intentionally denying their employees health insurance that included birth control coverage. More recently, the city of San Antonio denied a request by America's favorite fast food chain,

Chick-Fil-A, to open up a restaurant in their airport. This denial was in response to a string of sizeable donations the company has made over the years to different organizations that promote anti-LGBTQ beliefs and conversion therapy for individuals who identify as homosexual. While there's debate on whether or not San Antonio's denial of the company's request is a direct violation of Chick-Fil-A's first amendment rights, the problem stretches beyond the legal issues at hand.

Given the progress the United States has made within the past few decades to become more accepting of the LGBTQ community and openly encourage the use of contraceptives, it's disheartening to see corporations who have so much influence use their power to promote beliefs that directly contradict the lifestyle many of their customers have. While the freedom to have one's own personal beliefs is one of the many perks Americans are blessed with, it's not always appropriate to express those beliefs so blatantly.

see **CHICK-FIL-A**, page 16



Chick-Fil-A's recent donations have caused outrage.

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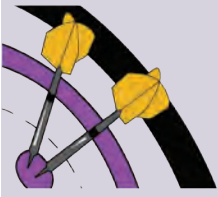
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A **"thank-you"** pat to the Residence Life, Health Center and The Well for bringing sexual violence awareness to the JMU community and for supporting survivors.

From someone who really appreciates it.

A **"you're-the-best"** pat to the new editor-in-chief for hooking me up with an old copy of The Breeze.

From an alumnus who was only missing a JMU momento for my framed championship wall.

A **"why-you-gotta-do-this"** dart to the command hooks that came loose and dropped my picture frame on the ground.

From someone who doesn't want glass shards in her foot.

An **"I-have-a-headache"** dart to the guy with the bright purple LED headlights who parked in front of my apartment for six hours last night.

From a guy who didn't get a wink of sleep.

Music has become unnecessarily vulgar

Artists should impact listeners in a positive way

ELIZA MACKNIGHT | two cents worth



For centuries, music has been a cultural focal point throughout the world. Used as the center of religious worship and entertainment, songs hold strong value and represent many of the popular beliefs of the cultures they originate from. Globally, music is a crucial part of people's daily lives. Pretty much any type of social event includes music — not to mention how much money people spend to attend concerts and music festivals.

What's becoming increasingly common, however, is for the meaning of songs — especially the more popular genres that attract younger crowds and produce the most money and fame — to hide behind vulgar lyrics. Very few songs make it to the radio without being censored and replaced by a clean version. Even without the offensive words present, the underlying meanings of many songs usually includes racist undertones and sexual innuendos. These points often take away from what's really important in the song, and thus shift

the focus from what the artist intended to the lyrics.

While these songs are admittedly super catchy and become all the rage among teens and young adults, it's concerning to think that these songs might begin to reflect what an entire culture holds as their core beliefs and morals. Writing and performing songs that focus primarily on sex, race and the objectification of women just further entrenches those ideas into people's everyday lives, whether they're aware of it or not.

Putting emphasis on these beliefs will translate directly into the lives of the youth in our country, opening them up to ideas and situations they aren't mature enough to handle. It's astonishing to hear how different it is in terms of content when comparing songs heard on the radio today to the popular music for young people 20, or even 10, years ago. While many of the songs have the same core meaning — breakups or other situations young people are exposed to — the music from a few decades ago uses substantially cleaner language.

Since the turn of the decade, pop music has gotten more offensive and inappropriate. While almost no one can truthfully claim that they don't enjoy any of the current popular hits — because most are

entertaining — it's interesting to take a step back. Actually analyzing what many of these artists are experiencing in their personal lives and how they apply those experiences to their music can be eye-opening. Many of these songs almost seem like a plea for help, while others are empowering or motivating.

While there isn't always something wrong with the message today's artists are spreading to the youth, many of the ways they choose to relay these messages aren't the best. Parents shouldn't have to constantly check and censor what they're playing on the radio when their kids are present, or have to make it a habit to check up on their teen's playlists to make sure they're listening to the clean versions of songs. Music can be a crucial aspect of people's lives, and everyone should have access to the music that's going to impact them in the most positive way. This won't be possible if music continues down this path of vulgarity. Artists are obviously free to write and perform whatever they choose, and maybe the lyrics they're choosing are helping them get their message across, but they should take their audience into account, as they might be affecting it in ways they've never considered.

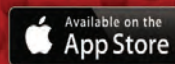
Eliza MacKnight is a sophomore psychology major. Contact her at macknieg@dukes.jmu.edu.

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Laughter makes people listen

Humorous presentations garner proper attention

RYANN SHEEHY | question everything



When something seems like it just can't get any worse, sometimes the only thing left to do is laugh. Laughter isn't just a temporary cure for sadness, but a vehicle for understanding deep topics. Late-night shows exemplify this concept to a tee.

The clever comedy that late-night hosts employ convinces younger generations to pay attention to important news and makes the stories more digestible for all audiences. Viewers are pulled in by the joke and then stick around to figure out why it was so funny in the first place.

Comedians like Stephen Colbert, Trevor Noah and John Oliver react every week to big stories in the

news through a humorous lens. They tackle sensitive issues like immigration, racism and white supremacy with jokes that make the facts digestible. Recently, Oliver did a piece on public shaming that included an interview with Monica Lewinsky over 20 years after her infamous affair with President Bill Clinton.

Oliver described the hate Lewinsky received as "vastly disproportionate to the offense." Through a slew of jokes, Oliver unpacked the complex issue of public shaming. He touched on the occasional benefits of publicly calling out a powerful person who's "behaving badly" in contrast to the shaming that destroys the lives of ordinary people.

He went on to say, "We make fun of people constantly on this show — it's a comedy show. But for what it's worth, we do think, probably more carefully than you might imagine, about who we're making fun of, why we're doing it and how."



When difficult news is made funny, it's easier to stomach.

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The news is intrinsically linked to politics. Since many of these comedy shows are set up as mock news networks, late-night TV is the perfect way to comment on political issues. However, the current U.S. political climate has slightly altered the severity of the commentary. Jim Rutenberg, a writer for The New York Times, stated, "his has become a time of choosing sides, embracing the politics of the day in all their ubiquity." For example, Colbert has found himself skyrocketing past Jimmy Fallon in ratings as he's dug deep into the anti-Trump agenda and its respective audience.

For people like Jensen Davis of "Harvard Political Review," late-night shows create relief from the inundation of headlines about heavy topics like war, mass shootings and nuclear weapons that fill mainstream media. Although these topics are incredibly important to understand, Davis explains, "Colbert and Meyers comically grapple with the political issues of the day, offering me the news without paralyzing me with fear."

Every day, the news

reports horror after horror. At some point, people give up. No one chooses to fill their day with bad news, no matter how important it is to them. The public is more likely to turn on something that'll make them laugh rather than something that'll make them fear for their lives.

Oliver's piece on public shaming not only confronts an issue about sympathy and liability but also addresses the purpose of late-night comedy itself. Late-night shows, like any news outlet, hold systems of power accountable for their actions. After the laugh is over, viewers can think critically about the joke, and why some things in this country are so laughable right now.

The U.S. must take into consideration how certain influential figures are being portrayed and why they're represented that way. Political views aside, those with unjust prejudices should stay in the spotlight of late-night television until their behavior reflects the values of this nation.

Ryann Sheehy is a sophomore theater and media arts and design double major. Contact Ryann at sheehyr1@dukes.jmu.edu.



Late night shows hold systems of power accountable for their actions.

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JACOB WEINHEIMER / THE BREEZE

CHICK-FIL-A | Big industries should remain impartial

from page 11

An argument could be made that these companies offending more liberal citizens with their conservative beliefs is comparable to the companies offending conservatives with outward support for the LGBTQ community and other more liberal views — an act that has been celebrated by many in recent years. This argument is also valid and should be respected, taking into consideration how politically divided the country is. The point is not what Chick-Fil-A and Hobby Lobby — among other companies — are promoting in terms of their belief system. The point is that personal beliefs are being promoted at all.

In a political climate as fragile as the one currently in America, it's unusual for people not to feel strongly about their morals, and it's easy for these beliefs to clash. It's become increasingly common for friendships, relationships and even families to be

distanced or ripped apart due to differing spots on the political spectrum. This is both unfair and unfortunate. The last thing this country needs is for such large companies to push their ideas on others.

No matter what those leading the corporations do or don't agree with, they should remain impartial. Despite what they support, no one deserves to feel discriminated against or uncomfortable in a place they commonly frequent, especially when they're actively fueling that company's success by buying their products. Today's heat between conservative and liberal citizens is prominent enough without having corporations involve themselves as well. Everyone is free to believe whatever they want, but unless Americans crave a deeper political divide, those beliefs should remain outside the doors of businesses.

Eliza MacKnight is a sophomore psychology major. Contact her at macknieg@dukes.jmu.edu.



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Sounds of the future

Waynesboro local combines '80s style and science-fiction genre to create conceptual music

By **JAKE CONLEY**
The Breeze

It's 9:20 p.m. in Austin, Texas, and a musician dressed in a lab coat and a headpiece made out of batteries is halfway through his set at South by Southwest. A stage full of analog synthesizers and drum machines might appear curious to a passerby, but to those in the know, it's not just a stage full of electronics — it's the product of one of electronic music's up-and-coming young artists, 21-year-old Eli Raybon.

On March 15, Raybon, a local artist hailing from the Waynesboro, Virginia, area, played his first major show as a solo artist at the annual South by Southwest conference and music festival combo in Austin. The event is a 10-day conglomerate that's part music festival, part film festival, part gaming conference and part interactive media conference. SXSW, as it's known in the business, has become a steppingstone for small, independent musicians to get their foot in the door of the music industry.

"It's a really, really big indie music festival with just all sorts of crazy stuff going on," Raybon said. "There's music and film and gaming. Basically, any sort of art or culture — it's all at this one festival."

The festival provided Raybon with a platform where he could begin to share his ideas with the music community. The festival gave him the opportunity to fill the stage with synthesizers, drum machines and science fiction-themed props. This sort of extensive arrangement is a direct outgrowth of the vision Raybon has for his music.

"The show was incredible," Raybon said. "It was the first time I actually had the chance to do a show with this setup, with a bunch of synthesizers and drum machines and stuff like that. It's been on my bucket list for a long time, so I was super, super pumped to be able to get out there and do that."

The young creative is currently collaborating with Los Angeles-based producer Prozak Morris to put together his first fully fledged record: an '80s-style, science fiction-themed concept album titled "Supertoys." The record is the first step toward the realization of an idea Raybon has had for years that extends beyond the normal realm of music, and Morris has played a vital part in the process. "Supertoys" may be starting as music, but the team of talents envisions taking the story the album tells and turning it into an entire collection of multimedia projects.

"We both see us creating a whole series out of this album almost like filmmakers, or almost like comic book makers, where we want to create an entire series or saga that starts with 'Supertoys,'" Morris said.

Morris' main role in the process is to take Raybon's ideas and writings and turn them into fully fleshed-out songs complete with the electronic, cyberpunk sound both of them love to feature in their work. He also acts as another creative voice, helping to develop the larger narrative and concept of Raybon's ideas.

Music, in its purest form, is a human device created for storytelling. Every song, every symphony and every record has a story to tell. Raybon is taking this concept to the next

level by turning his music into full-blown mixed media projects. The young artist is looking into the future of music and realizing his vision one step at a time.

Raybon's idea for a science-fiction epic created through music and other art forms comes from his love for everything retro. He draws inspiration from '80s music, movies and culture, such as the soundtrack of "Bladerunner"

The last piece of Raybon's concept is the visuals, created by Virginia-based artist Craig Snodgrass. The two met after Raybon saw a display of Snodgrass' art in Staunton and contacted him to talk about a possible collaboration.

"As we got to know each other a little bit better and what his project was, he explained that behind the album, there's also a narrative, which kind of comes across as a cyberpunk Pinocchio tale," Snodgrass said.

One of Snodgrass' most prominent roles in the "Supertoys" project is worldbuilding and fleshing out characters for the science fiction universe Raybon has imagined. His work gives visual life to the music that Raybon and Morris produce.

All three members of the trio have essential roles to play in the development of Raybon's vision. Instead of limiting themselves to staying within the lines of the music industry, they're looking to expand Raybon's concepts into multiple creative outlets, such as film and video games.

"I think we can do a lot, just beyond [Raybon's] music," Snodgrass said. "I think we've established a good set of intellectual property ... that could be looped into anything from comic books to animations to film and even to taking [Raybon's] music performances to another level."

Raybon's concept of turning his music into a multimedia project makes him unique in the music industry. He admits that his music may never be "the most popular thing ever," but that's not what he's concerned with.

"It's about carving out a spot for myself within this niche," Raybon said, "and building up my audience a little bit and just trying to make the best records that I can make."

CONTACT Jake Conley at thebreezecopy@gmail.com For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEVIN BLACKBURN



Raybon's set stems from a multimedia vision of retro-themed culture.

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Not a penny spent

With confidence and determination, alumna graduated debt-free



TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

By **SABRINA MORENO**
The Breeze

Fort Valley, Virginia, is a 1,229-person town tucked in between mountain ranges with one four-way intersection and a recently established post office. Stop lights have yet to make their presence known here, as has quality cell phone service, which once made it difficult for Tiffany Riggs' community college friends to find their way to her house for her birthday celebration.

The mailbox adorned with blue balloons at the end of the cul-de-sac eventually gave it away.

But aside from being her hometown, the 13-mile wide by 26-mile long sliver of the Shenandoah Valley is where Riggs ('18), an operations assistant for the Office of Entrepreneurship, remembers writing she'd one day go to college for free.

This past December, she accomplished her dream.

"I've just always been the person to go for things, to try new things and just to put myself 100% into everything that I do," Riggs said. "I can't think of a time that I haven't done that ... I guess, #sendit, you know?"

She fumbled with her engraved gold necklace, a graduation gift from her mother with the word "fearless" etched across in block letters. It reminds her of how she's

gotten to where she is — a combination of giving herself credit, finding fearlessness in intimidation and being surrounded by ambitious, supportive people.

As a communication studies major fascinated by the idea of one day working for herself, she dove into the world of entrepreneurship after meeting a couple who retired in their 20s.

Helping aspiring entrepreneurs plan events and get out of the "9-to-5 system" encouraged her go-getter mentality and fueled her passion for JMU and mentorship.

When she graduated four months ago, the average U.S. student debt owed scraped the \$1.5 trillion ceiling, with the average student owing \$28,500. Although Riggs beat the statistic of the 70% of students who were projected to earn a degree with debt in 2018, she says nothing comes without putting work into it.

A series of scholarships, as well as being part of a work-study program, paid off her first year at Lord Fairfax Community College. By her sophomore year, she was chosen for the Valley Proteins Fellows Program, which selects 10 students from 23 Virginia community colleges to cover the cost of tuition, school supplies and more.

see **DEBT-FREE**, page 22



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Fresh off the iron

By **KAILEY CHENG**
The Breeze

On the day of its grand opening, the lunch rush hit hard.

Employees were on their feet throughout the day, standing outside the shop to hand out free samples of fresh Belgian Liege waffles to lines of curious customers. Valley Mall shoppers caught a whiff of the one-of-a-kind treats the moment they walked in, attracting them to the little red and blue waffle shop right away.

On March 9, Waffle Yum, the bright blue food truck, opened its new brick and mortar location at Valley Mall. Owner Dave Eaton looks back on the weekend, pleased with the high turnout.

"You always have mixed emotions — excited, kind of nervous all in one," Eaton said. "But everyone enjoyed the waffles. There were a lot of people who worked in the mall who came and checked us out and heard great reviews from customers and all the employees there."

Eaton and his wife, Renae, started the truck about a year and a half ago and have been considering opening a shop since November. Over the past year, they carefully considered the shop's theme colors and layout, attempting to match the cheerful, pastel palette of the truck. They chose Valley Mall because it's ideal for foot traffic — a key factor for Eaton. He

hopes to grow the customer base and expand more than anything else.

Eaton said one thing that makes his life easier is that the shop is only open on weekends. Since the truck will continue to attend events such as Food Truck Fest in April, the shorter hours will make the business less complicated to handle. He may consider adding a few more days in the future.

Jules Oehrlein, a senior athletic training major and Waffle Yum employee, thinks that with a solid foundation, Waffle Yum will become more widely known in Harrisonburg. She expects more customers than ever before due to the two outlets.

"I definitely think it's easier to know about it and have a set location with the hours," Oehrlein said. "It'll be easier for people to know. It's cool to see it expanding and to be a part of it growing."

Within the shop, space makes all the difference. Looking back at working in the truck, Oehrlein and coworker junior finance and management major Brian Vo recall the chaos that ensued with the little space employees had to work in. They remember a hot, confined area where they were constantly bumping into each other. Now, they're able to enjoy a breathable and larger workspace with air conditioning — another amenity the truck didn't provide.

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Waffle Yum food truck opens storefront at Valley Mall



The new shop gives employees more breathing room.

The physical barrier between the staff and its customers has been broken. The Waffle Yum staff is now able to see customers without having to open a slidable window. Being face-to-face with the community has led to more personal interactions.

"We've definitely experienced a lot more interesting and more flavorful encounters with the different types of people who walk around here," Vo said.

Eaton, Oehrlein and Vo agreed that more customers — new and old — can eat at Waffle Yum because of its stable location. Harrisonburg resident Hannah Altman, a long-time customer

and waffle lover, showed up in the first hour it opened. She'd been waiting for its grand opening since its Facebook announcement in February.

"[My husband and I] told them, 'We've been waiting for this day and are so excited to be here,'" Altman said. "I also love how they did the shop in the mall. I think it looks really great."

The only difference in the menu is that

Tallon Jenkins prepares to press the waffle iron down on fresh dough.

there's coffee at the store. Other than that, customers will be able to enjoy their favorite waffle at either location. Since the shop has set hours, people

will be able to eat it for breakfast with choices like the Egg & Bacon Waffle, brunch with the Heath Waffle and dessert with the Elvis Waffle.

For Eaton, there's one goal in mind: just keep expanding. He wants to fully embrace the

Harrisonburg community. With the shop open and the truck traveling to local events, more customers will be visiting each place.

"It's close to us, it's open more often, I can get it more frequently and I'm excited for them as a business," Altman said. "I think they make a real quality product, so I'm excited that it's growing, and I'd like to be a part of helping it grow."

CONTACT Kailey Cheng at thebreezeculture@gmail.com. For more on the culture, arts and lifestyle of the JMU and Harrisonburg communities, follow the culture desk on Twitter @Breeze_Culture.

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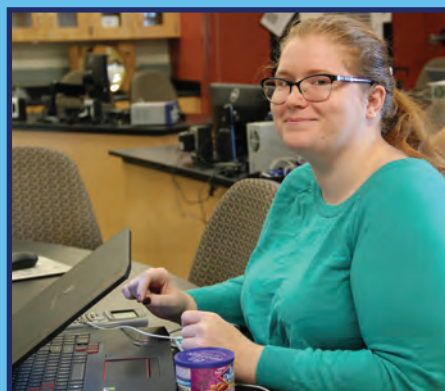
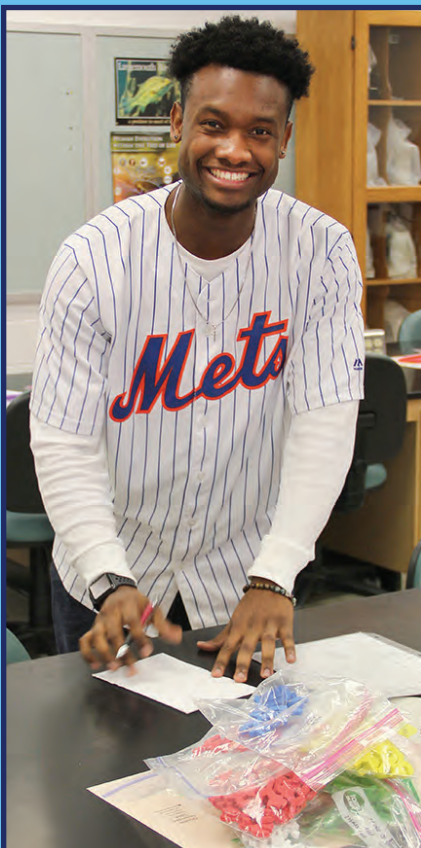
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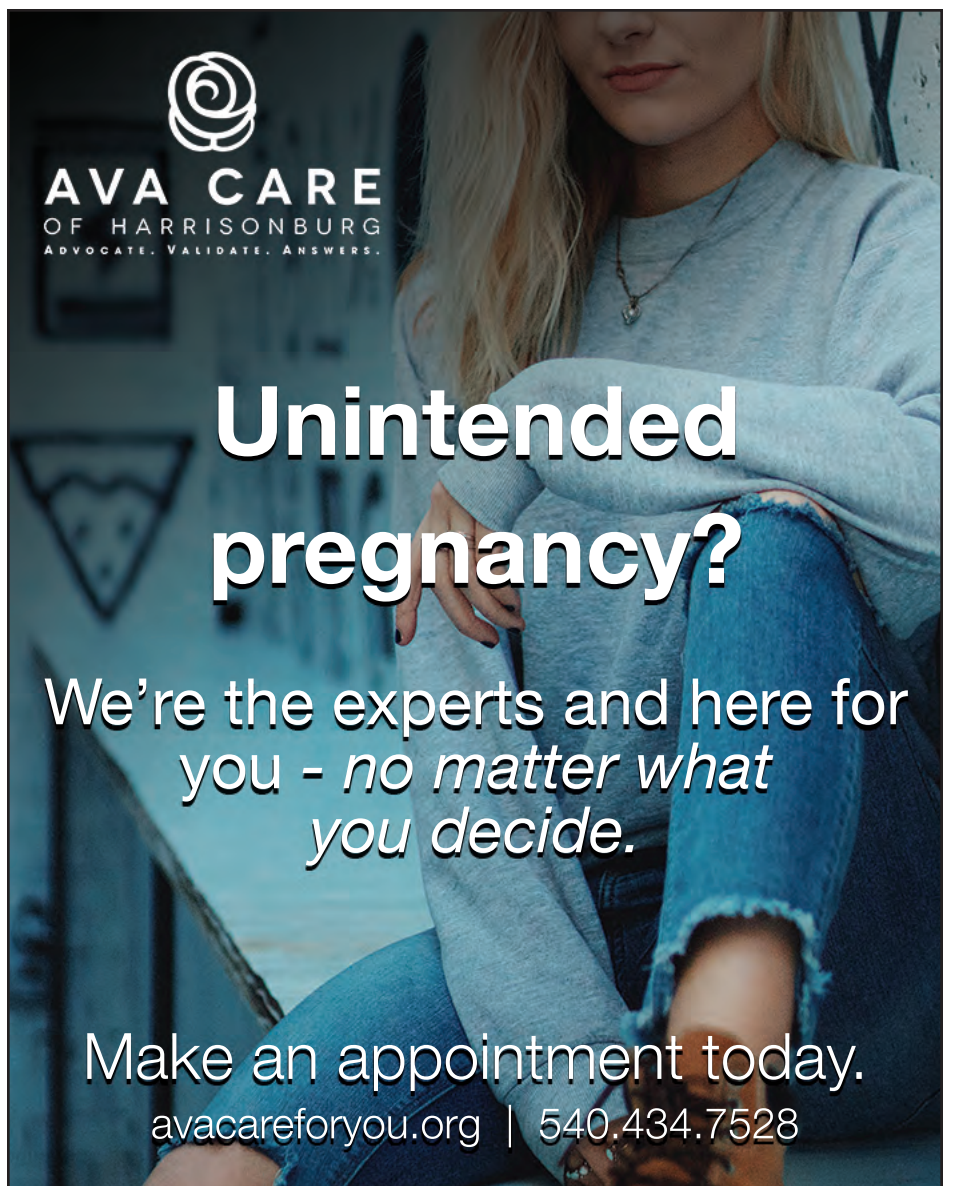
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DEBT-FREE | Alumna and faculty member known for being 'all-in'



"I recently had a friend tell me ... 'Tiffany, I've never seen you do anything unconfidently.'"

Tiffany Riggs



PHOTOS BY TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

Riggs once worked as a Transfer Orientation Peer Adviser, as she was once a transfer herself.

from page 19

In addition to the required 80 hours of community service each year and various leadership workshops, Riggs became heavily involved. She's never been anything but an "all-in" person. To this day, she believes her dedication to education and community involvement is what captured the attention of Valley Protein — they sought her out, not the other way around.

At her community college, she'd been president of the Student Government Association and honor society, part of campus ministry and the softball team, taught Zumba and was the mascot.

"I don't know if that one is out there," Riggs said of her undercover role. "Surprise, people."

When thinking about how she persisted in times of insecurity and uncertainty, she paused.

"Well I'm a boss ass bit—," she said before she stopped herself and started chuckling. "Just kidding ... I recently had a friend tell me, and it's been resonating with me this whole week, and it's really been helping me have confidence in this new job, he just told me 'Tiffany, I've never seen you do anything unconfidently.'"

Riggs has known this friend, Joseph Graves, since their community college days. Graves, who's working toward an engineering degree from WVU and was in the swing dance club with her at Lord Fairfax, always felt she commanded the room.

"I reminded her of the other 99% of the time I've seen her where she's not nervous," Graves said. "When I said something along those lines of 'you don't do anything unconfidently,' she seemed to perk up."

Two months prior to graduating, a friend approached her about the Centennial Scholars Program at JMU, which covers tuition and room and board rates.

"I'm really strong in my faith and I firmly believe that God told me to come to JMU," Riggs said. "I was like 'OK, God, if this is what you have for me, if you're paying for it, then I'll go.'"

Finding her place was difficult at JMU, which was 10 times the size of her community college. She remembers being so miserable that she'd go to class, come home and let the anxiety get the best of her.

Then, she applied to be a Transfer Orientation Peer Adviser.

"Transferring is such a unique experience, and it's really difficult," Riggs said. "Everyone kind of has their place already coming in as a freshman, and I just didn't know where I belonged, especially as a junior ... I was surrounded by people who understood and we instantly became this family because we had this shared experience."

Now, she says JMU can't keep her away — and her mother, Mona Riggs, has loved seeing the impact the university has had on Tiffany beyond the financial help.

Watching her daughter grow in confidence and leadership has been one of her ultimate "proud mom" moments. Despite not being able to contribute financially, her parents aimed to support her in any other way they could by pushing her to apply to every scholarship and praying frequently.

"It wasn't always easy ... coming in as a transfer trying to do her studies but then not really feeling like she had anyone to connect with. But then that all changed, her mindset changed," Mona said. "I'm excited to see what her future holds. I think she's unstoppable."

Now, Tiffany looks forward to one day being a motivational speaker and helping others realize the best within themselves — which she says she wasn't able to do without the support of friends, professors and parents who jolted her from rock bottom.

"I read this quote somebody said about Lady Gaga that said, 'Lady Gaga doesn't make me want to be like her, she makes me want to be like me,'" Riggs said. "That's what I want to do for people, man."

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

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Limitless

Youthful lacrosse team shows future promise

By **BLAKE PACE**
The Breeze

Every team is defined by a unifying motto.

One of the most common choices, “family,” pulls at the emotional connection between the coaches and athletes as they band together to take on a season’s challenges. Other phrases, like “trained to go,” evoke a work ethic instilled throughout the program to ensure there’s no other team working harder on and off the field. Both messages bring the team together so it can begin to check off the goals lying ahead.

JMU lacrosse, a mid-major program off the heels of its first ever national championship, hasn’t established a checklist of goals or list of hopeful accomplishments for the 2019 season. The Dukes weren’t expected to be the 22-1 team last year or the one that earned six top-10 victories, so they haven’t settled for the standards other teams set for them as a mid-major program.

This year’s team is centered around one word. It’s a word that won’t disappoint or bring false hopes and will allow the coaches and players to

maximize every opportunity and bring out their highest potential: limitless.

“We set the bar so high last year, showing that it doesn’t matter that we’re a mid-major program,” head coach Shelley Klaes-Bawcombe said. “We showed that we can overcome barriers and put ourselves out there to compete for a national championship. If we were able to do all that, why should we put limits on ourselves?”

The no-limit approach has seen JMU carve through its non-conference schedule to a 12-3

record with an average margin of victory of over seven and a half goals.

Every team the Dukes have faced outside the top 10, they’ve dominated — but it’s been a different story against the nation’s elite. JMU’s three top-10 opponents — North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland — have outscored the Dukes by a combined 29 goals and handed them each of their three losses. The JMU offense, still getting used to its new personnel and rotation, shot 28.8% in those three games compared to 47.6% in its eight victories.

“We’re a little stagnant and passive when we

move on offense,” senior attacker and leading scorer Hanna Haven said. “We’ve added some new plays in here and there to keep our offense fresh, and hopefully that keeps everyone moving through the rest of the season.”

Although the results appear underwhelming, the early awareness of what the team is missing points toward potential growth. JMU’s opportunity to face some of the best teams in the country well before the postseason begins gives the Dukes over a month to experiment with new approaches, lineups and play-calls.

“It’s so important that we play these top-10 teams because we see the toughest competition,” junior attacker Maddie McDaniel said. “We have the experiences and then we can look back and see what they did, see what we did and then we can bring all that together for the next time we might see them.”

One of those early adjustments aided the Dukes’ lack of success on the draw. After losing the draw-control battle 22-5 against UNC and 14-10 against Virginia Tech, Klaes-Bawcombe put senior defender Caroline Sdanowich on the circle to help out the 6-foot McDaniel in the middle.

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'We're hungry'

The change has paid off tremendously. The Dukes have only lost the draw-control advantage once since then — both Sdanowich and McDaniel are among the top seven CAA athletes in draw controls per game.

"I just thought that my grittiness and my hard-work aspect would help Maddie box out and get the balls that are on the ground," Sdanowich said. "It was one of our strengths last year, and we started to struggle in the beginning of the year, so I talked to the coaches about bringing me into the fold."

Not only does this limitless mindset address the team as a whole, it speaks to each individual's capabilities. While JMU returned six of its starters from the 2018 national championship game, several players have found new roles with an increase in playing time and have turned into stars in the making.

Junior midfielder Halle Duenkel and junior attacker Logan Brennan are two of the Dukes' top three scorers this season. Despite making their first career starts less than two months ago, the two have combined for 40 goals

and have stepped up in an offense that has struggled at times. Brennan burst onto the scene with 11 goals in her first three games, while Duenkel has put together five hat tricks in her last seven matches.

JMU's tough non-conference schedule and the early tweaks it has made have the Dukes entering conference play as the 10th-best team in the nation. With eight games left until the NCAA tournament, the players and coaching staff will use this final month to develop its younger rotation, hoping to maximize their offensive consistency. While the team has set no limits for what it hopes to achieve, the Dukes are eager to pick up right where they left off.

"We're hungry," Klaes-Bawcombe said. "We know we had a special year last year, but now, we're looking to show that we're not going anywhere."

CONTACT Blake Pace at blakeandrewpace@gmail.com. For more lacrosse coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter @TheBreezeSports.



PHOTOS BY TRISTAN LOREI / THE BREEZE

JMU lacrosse has struggled in some games early in the season following a 2018 campaign that saw it win its first national title.



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Dogs on top

JMU's powerful defensive line returns its star players – the confidence is high



Rising senior defensive lineman John Daka had 22 tackles and 10 sacks in the 2018 season.

BREEZE FILE PHOTOS

By **NOAH ZIEGLER**
The Breeze

High expectations aren't new for JMU football. After a second-round exit in the 2018 FCS playoffs, it's bringing back most of its best players in what was a top-ranked defense in the FCS, but that's not stopping the unit from looking to improve in every aspect of the game.

Head coach Curt Cignetti is inheriting players like senior defensive lineman John Daka and redshirt junior safety D'Angelo Amos, who each helped the Dukes establish themselves as a

dominant force in the CAA. With the return of redshirt senior cornerback Rashad Robinson, Cignetti has weapons at his disposal — but the most important trait many of his defenders will have is experience.

In 2018, the Dukes finished with the second-best rush defense in the CAA, only allowing 104.4 yards on the ground per game. They were first in the conference in scoring defense, giving up just 14.6 points per game during its 13-game season.

With Cignetti still implementing his playbook, the defense will need time to adjust to the new system. It's a process filled with mistakes, but the

team knows that, through trial and error, it'll get better by August.

"I see practices becoming physical and faster," Cignetti said. "It's starting to sink in. The installation, the language, they're not thinking as much — they're playing. I see them getting better."

Cignetti runs his practices with an up-tempo mindset that he hopes will help the players stay on their toes and be better prepared for the regular season. Another thing the team wants to work on is tidying up the minor details and making sure no easy play is given up.

It's no secret that JMU's defense is expected to

remain a top-level force in the nation. In HERO Sports' Way-Too-Early Top 10, they placed the Dukes at no. 1 over powerhouse North Dakota State. HERO Sports cited the return of 21 starters, which will be a factor as the 2019 season progresses.

Despite having players like Daka return with another year of experience under their belt, others will rise up and have breakout seasons. One player waiting in the wings is redshirt sophomore linebacker Isaac Ukwu, who played in three games during the 2018 season and redshirted his freshman year.

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"I'm just trying to start off by doing my job by being able to make plays and come off of that," Ukwu said. "First, you've got to be able to do your responsibility, and then, once you do that, you can go above and beyond and start making plays."

Ukwu mentioned how his fellow defensive linemen have helped him grow this offseason and in spring practices. He says he treats practices like he does games and believes if he continues that mindset, the solid performances will come.

Spring practices aren't perfect, though they continue to be a chance for each side of the ball to learn about each other and figure out who needs to work on what to reach an elite level of play. So far, the defensive line has shown it can be a strong complement to a powerful secondary, so

long as it can tune up its run defense.

"Obviously, we're going to make mistakes on the field," Daka said. "As long as we're playing 100 miles per hour, we can make up for a lot of things."

Daka notes that one of the biggest things about the defense returning is that the players are comfortable with each other. After going through a coaching change, the chemistry already built has helped them make the transition as smooth as possible.

Their confidence is building in all aspects, but Cignetti has mentioned there's always room to get better. Although he mentioned the defensive line has flexed its muscles and made itself a guest in the backfield during practices and scrimmages, Cignetti still sees growing pains.

"I think each guy still has to improve and become more consistent," Cignetti said. "We're going to be putting more stuff in, we don't have the whole package in yet. We still have too many missed assignments. We don't always get guys playing snap the whistle or playing with great pad level."

Fans who wear purple on gold Saturdays are patiently waiting for the spring game on April 13 to get their first taste of what the team will look like for the upcoming season. The players know where the bar is set, and they're all

confident the Dukes will not only reach — but exceed — their high expectations.

"[JMU fans] should expect a fast, physical defense that's ready to make plays, hype up the crowd and get everybody into it," Ukwu said. "As long as they've got our back, we've got their back."

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

"As long as [JMU fans have] got our back, we've got their back."

Isaac Ukwu



Rising redshirt senior linebacker Dimitri Holloway led the Dukes with 46 solo tackles in 2018.



Rising redshirt junior defensive lineman Adeb Atariwa assisted in 23 tackles last season.

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Junior infielder/catcher Kierstin Roadcap has 21 RBIs through 29 games.

BREEZE FILE PHOTOS

Comeback kid

How Kierstin Roadcap battled through an injury to become a vital part of JMU softball

By **JASON CLAMPITT**
The Breeze

JMU softball is off to a 23-6 record to start the 2019 season, and one of the reasons behind its success is junior infielder/catcher Kierstin Roadcap. While she anchors one of the best pitching rotations in the country, she's most well-known on the team for her presence.

"She's more than a catcher for us, she's the heart and soul of this team," head coach Loren LaPorte said.

So far in her career, Roadcap has played in 124 games and has compiled a .284 batting average, hitting 14 home runs and 70 RBIs in her JMU career. Roadcap has started every game this season, batting .256 and hitting three home runs and 21 RBIs.

Last season, Roadcap was forced to move to first base due to an elbow injury that limited her ability to throw. While it was difficult for her to adjust to the new position, her previous experience playing first base in high school made the switch easier.

"It's not fun having what you love to do more than anything in the world be taken away from you due to something you can't control, and injuries just happen," Roadcap said. "So it was really hard not to be able to be back there and help my team back there because that's what I love to do and that's all I've really ever done."

After dealing with the injury, Roadcap said she almost cried when she got word that she could resume her catching duties. Now that she has returned to her primary position, Roadcap hasn't missed a beat, starting every game behind the plate this season.

"I just loved catching ever since I was a little girl," Roadcap said. "I was always very hyper and just needed to be involved in every play. So, anywhere else on the field, I was kind of bored ... I was so happy when I could start catching again and working with my pitchers."

One of the pitchers in the rotation that Roadcap has caught for is redshirt senior pitcher/infielder Megan Good. During her freshman season, Roadcap's skill increased because of how Good pitched. Since then, their relationship has grown.

"Kierstin is the type of girl that'd do anything for you on or off the field. I have a lot of respect for her for that," Good said. "If I need a catcher late at night, if I want to go work on some spins or

anything like that, she's always there. It's always a yes from her, and I can't thank her enough for all she does for me and all she does for this program."

The relationship between the two has evolved since being at JMU. Both players recounted how then head coach Mickey Dean told Roadcap if she wanted to play her freshman season, she'd have to learn how to catch Good's lethal riseball.

"I remember when coach Dean was here ... had me scoot up, because we're at 43 feet, to 35-40ish feet and told me to throw the ball as hard as I can," Good said. "He looks at her and goes, 'You better catch it,' and she just learned from then on."

Roadcap has the responsibility of handling the entire pitching staff — something she takes seriously. While she was at first base last season, she talked to the pitchers about their pitching styles and their gameplans.

"Being a catcher and a pitcher, just knowing how strong your relationship has to be because you're the battery, I think that we all read each other's minds, honestly," Roadcap said.

She knows how to talk and catch for the entire staff and doesn't want to leave the bullpen unless everything is perfect. LaPorte said Roadcap does an exceptional job at balancing the different styles of the rotation.

Roadcap has matured as a catcher to the point that she'll go to the circle to talk with one of the pitchers, which LaPorte wanted her to do for a while. She benefits from hanging with them off the field to help build their chemistry.

"Just a lot of eating," Roadcap said. "We love to eat, but just hanging out and doing things that each other likes, we don't all like the same things, but just taking time to really get to know them on a deeper level... Knowing if you don't have a good relationship with them, it's not going to work on the field."

Roadcap has quickly become a player who everybody admires in the locker room. LaPorte acknowledges Roadcap's impact in the locker room and on the field.

"Everybody feels comfortable — not just the pitchers, but the whole defense feels comfortable back there with her," LaPorte said. "She communicates every single pitch. When someone makes a mistake, Kierstin is always the one to pick them up."

After Roadcap's injury, one of the biggest challenges the coaching staff continues to face is how to limit her workload as the season goes

on. The coaches have tried to limit Roadcap's bullpen sessions and give her days off — something Roadcap is not a fan of.

"If I'm not back [behind the plate] I'm upset," Roadcap said. "I just recently had two days off this past week ... I don't like that. I want to be

back there. I want to be able to catch them."

CONTACT Jason Clampitt at clampitt@dukes.jmu.edu. For more softball coverage, follow the sports desk on Twitter at @TheBreezeSports.



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IN BRIEF

sports desk

Women's Basketball

WBB competes in WNIT Semifinal for second time



JMU women's basketball's strong 2018-19 season continued with wins over Virginia Tech and Georgetown last week. The Dukes advanced to the semifinals for the Women's National Invitational Tournament for the second time in program history — the first since 2012. After falling short in the CAA Tournament and missing the NCAA Tournament, JMU has bounced back to solidify itself as one of the best mid-major programs in the nation. The Dukes played Wednesday night, check out breezejmu.org to see how they did.

Volleyball

White named to U.S. Collegiate National Team



Following a dominant 2018 season, JMU volleyball's middle blocker M'Kaela White was selected for the U.S. Women's Collegiate National Team. White is one of 28 players to be named to the team and is one of eight at her position. This past season, the rising senior recorded 308 kills and 172 blocks — a team high. White was also an American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-American last season.

Softball

Dukes rise in national polls with strong showings



JMU softball went 7-0 over the past two weeks with a three-game sweep of CAA rival Elon and a mid-week victory against Marshall and another weekend sweep against Towson. The Dukes rose in two of the national polls and claimed a spot in the third. They now sit at No. 14 in Softball America, No. 18 in ESPN.com/USA and No. 20 in USA Today/NFCA Coaches Poll.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JMU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

(18-12, 2-4 CAA)

LATEST SCORE

Loss vs. Richmond, 3-1

NEXT GAME

Friday vs. College of Charleston

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Brady Harju — 6 hits, 2 RBIs

WOMEN'S TENNIS

(10-7, 2-0 CAA)

LATEST SCORE

Loss vs. VCU, 5-2

NEXT GAME

Saturday vs. College of Charleston

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Amanda Nord — Three-set singles win

LACROSSE

(8-3, 0-0 CAA)

LATEST SCORE

Win vs. San Diego State, 19-8

NEXT GAME

Friday vs. Delaware

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Halle Duenkel — 4 goals, 7 shots

MEN'S TENNIS

(14-7, 2-2 CAA)

LATEST SCORE

Win vs. Radford, 4-3

NEXT MATCH

Saturday at Richmond

PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Pierre Kohler — Claimed No. 1 singles win

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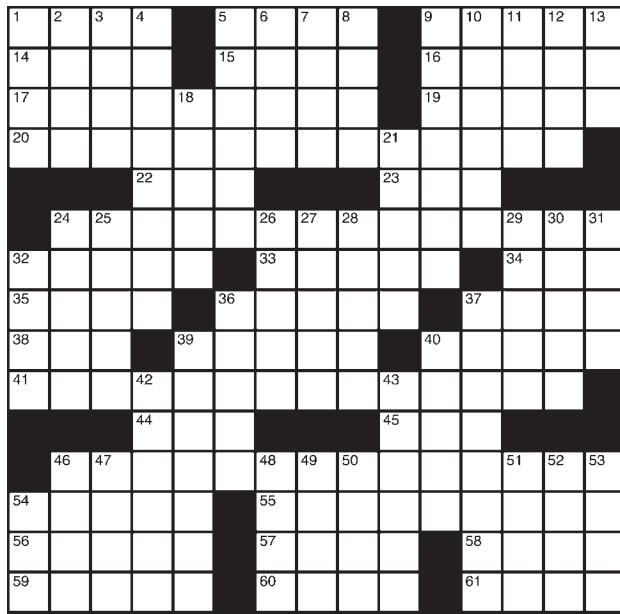
FOR RELEASE APRIL 4, 2019

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 "High" places?
- 5 Flag down
- 9 Caller ID?
- 14 El __, Texas
- 15 Actor Idris who plays Heimdall in "Thor" films
- 16 Mozart wrote a lot of them
- 17 Dungeness delicacies
- 19 Omni rival
- 20 One reviewing challenges
- 22 Fish eggs
- 23 Brooding genre
- 24 One who's got you covered
- 32 Pig's sniffer
- 33 Weep for
- 34 See 27-Down
- 35 Sch. near the U.S.-Mexico border
- 36 Law school subject
- 37 Put on the cloud, say

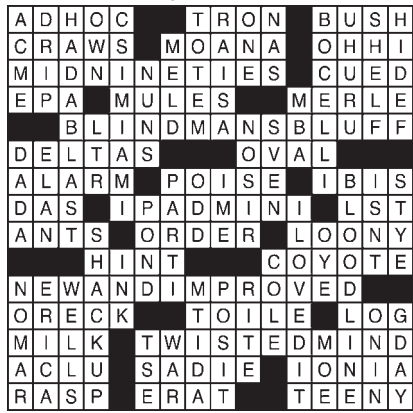


By Kevin Salat 4/4/19

- 38 Writer Deighton
- 39 "It Wasn't All Velvet" memoirist
- 40 Asks
- 41 One seen in a Hanes catalog
- 44 Aromatic necklace
- 45 "How We Do (Party)" British singer Rita __
- 46 Predictable work ... and, in a way, what the other three longest answers are?
- 54 Implied
- 55 Chain used by many contractors
- 56 Courtroom pro
- 57 Take testimony from
- 58 Depend
- 59 "The Ant and the Grasshopper" storyteller
- 60 Philosophies
- 61 Fort SSW of Louisville

- 3 "By yesterday!"
- 4 Sleeps it off
- 5 Physician, ideally
- 6 Commercial word with Seltzer
- 7 "Oh, suuure"
- 8 Cut with a beam
- 9 Cruel
- 10 Papillon, e.g.
- 11 Deer sir
- 12 Dole (out)
- 13 Ballpark fig.
- 18 Influence
- 21 Ballpark opinions, at times
- 24 One-__ chance
- 25 Incessantly
- 26 "When the moon hits your eye" feeling
- 27 With 34-Across, Sally Field film
- 28 More adorable
- 29 Make blank
- 30 Piercing site, perhaps
- 31 Scottish center?
- 32 Sci-fi navigator
- 36 Specifically
- 37 Float fixer
- 39 Place with a bird's-eye view

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



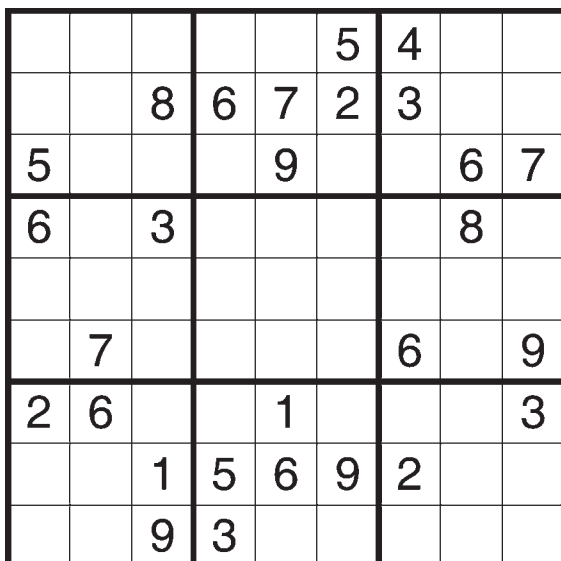
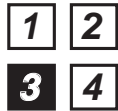
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- 40 Went carefully (over)
- 42 Nickname of golfer Sergio Garcia, who turned pro at age 19
- 43 Shakers' relatives?
- 46 "Mom" actor Corddry
- 47 Treats, as a sprain
- 48 Surprised greeting
- 49 They're not on the same page
- 50 Religious scholar
- 51 Premiere
- 52 Simple tie
- 53 Where Achilles was dipped for invincibility
- 54 Org. operating full-body scanners

SUDOKU

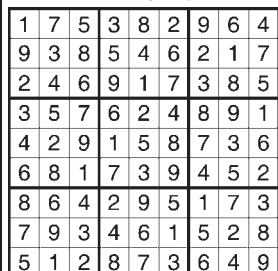
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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

Solution to Wednesday's puzzle



4/4/19

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Dance & Co. is looking for RELIABLE CAREGIVERS to be responsible for one or two groups of children (ages 3-10) for 20-30 hours May 22-26 between 3:30 and 9 pm (Sat. 6-10 and Sun. 2-7). Pay is \$8/hour. If interested email dancencompany@gmail.com or call 540-433-7127.

Help Needed

Looking for someone to help build swimming pools for the summer. Full time or part time but must be dependable. Call or text for details. 540-209-0583.

PART TIME JOB @ VALLEY FITNESS HBURG

Valley Fitness is looking for an energetic individual to join our team. Duties include cleaning and organizing gym, as well as working with new members. Great part-time job that includes free membership to facility. if interested email jennywetsel@hotmail.com or stop by Valley Fitness to fill out an application.

Full-Time Volunteer & Community Services Coordinator for Cat's Cradle

Cat's Cradle is seeking a full-time Volunteer & Community Services Coordinator. To find out more and apply online, visit Indeed.com and enter "Volunteer Cat's Cradle" and "Harrisonburg, VA" in the search fields. Then, click "Find Jobs." Questions may be directed to Chase Martin at cchasmartin@gmail.com. EOE.

DANCE TEACHERS NEEDED!

Dance & Company is looking for dance teachers of all styles (tap, jazz, hip-hop, modern, ballet, etc) for all ages (3-adult) for the 2019-2020 school year. Send resume to dancencompany@gmail.com or call 540-433-7127 to inquire.

Yard Work Needed

Looking for someone to do GENERAL YARD WORK. Very flexible hours. Very good pay. Located in Penn Laird. Call (540)289-6181.

Summer Job- Valley Pool & Spa

Need a summer job close to campus? We are looking for self motivated with great energy seasonal retail help. Job duties include but not limited to: Assisting customers with pool supplies; Testing and balancing pool samples; Able to lift up to 50lbs; Register sales; Stocking. Call 540-433-2762 to apply.

City of Harrisonburg Seasonal Positions - Summer 2019

Looking for a Summer 2019 job? If so, consider applying to a seasonal position with the City of Harrisonburg's Parks and Recreation Department! To find out more details on available positions, visit our website at: <https://www.harrisonburgva.gov/employment>. EOE.

JOB JOB. JOB. JOB JOB JOB.

Thinking about jobs? So are we.

Our 2018 Master of Science in Management (MSM) graduates found employment at 73 companies: Facebook, General Mills, Neiman Marcus, United Airlines, Yelp, and more.

The **Wake Forest MSM** program is a 10-month fast track designed to help you **land the job you love.**

- Designed exclusively for non-business majors
- Master the fundamentals of marketing, data analytics, strategy, accounting, operations, and more
- MSM graduates are half-way to their MBA*
- #4 in the U.S., #21 worldwide (The Economist, 2017)
- Includes Action Learning Projects for relevant, real-world experience with corporate sponsors

* MBA Advantage candidates must apply and be admitted to our MBA program within five years of graduating from the MSM program. MBA Advantage students have the potential to complete the MBA in 12 months.

Learn more and start your Wake Forest success story at go.wfu.edu/Breeze



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