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Looking back at the school year’s top stories

News 3 & 5

Life 8 & 9

Sports 10 & 11

Also...

Opinion p. 4 UPB shined this year

Photo p. 6 & 7 Best shots of the year
Preacher stirs up trouble on campus

Ross Jackson of Revival Christian Ministries delivered a controversial message to students

By IJ CHAN
The Breeze

For two days in September, one man damned all 20,000 of JMU’s students to hell.

On the afternoons of Tuesday, Sept. 16 and Wednesday, Sept. 17, traveling evangelist Ross Jackson spent hours standing outside of Carrier Library speaking to thousands of students. He quoted from the Bible, and made strong statements against homosexuality, premarital sex and the drinking culture at JMU.

Jackson’s speech caught the attention of many students, who formed a large crowd and surrounded him to listen and confront him. Students could be heard singing offensive or explicit song lyrics over Jackson’s attempts to speak, such as “Get Low” by Lil Jon and the East Side Boyz and “Baby Got Back” by Sir-Mix-A-Lot. Another group of students were seen chalkig a pentagram on the ground in front of where Jackson was standing. His wife, Samantha, and his two young children stood nearby, silently watching.

A handful of students even confronted and argued with him one-on-one and were cheered on by onlookers. A video showing junior justice studies major Luke Reeping leading a group of students singing the Christian song “How He Loves” over Jackson’s speech went viral on YouTube, and at the time of writing has garnered more than 1 million views.

However, Jackson didn’t seem to be intimidated by all the opposition. He continued preaching and speaking to students until that Wednesday afternoon, when he was summoned by JMU Police officers for assault and battery after junior studio art major Emily Kohl claimed that he assaulted her. He was issued a no trespass notice, which means that he would be arrested immediately if he were to return to the JMU campus. He was released that same afternoon.

One day later, The Breeze was able to meet Jackson in an off-campus location for an exclusive interview. Jackson spoke openly about his life as a controversial preacher. He is the founder of Revival Christian Ministries, an organization that strives to preach gospel “in open air.” He said the accusations that brought on the summons for assault and battery were false. He said he was trying to release himself from Kohl, who grabbed him by the arm, shook him and wouldn’t let go.

In the Harrisonburg/Rockingham General District Court case file, Kohl wrote that she had approached Jackson and asked him about the phrase “love thy neighbor.” According to Kohl, when she told him she was gay, “he slapped me on the right hand and backed away, disgusted by me.” Kohl said that Jackson continued to shout obscenities at her afterward and that his presence was “menacing,” especially to the LGBTQ community.

Kohl pursued the assault and battery charge and Jackson returned to Harrisonburg to go to court, first on Oct. 7 and then Dec. 16. The case was ultimately dismissed, according to court records.

CONTACT IJ Chan at chanij@dukes.jmu.edu.

Newman Lake renovated

Project to increase quality and functionality will be finished this summer, university says

By CORYN ROMANO
The Breeze

After nearly an entire school year without a scenic Newman Lake, the renovation is finally almost done.

The initial completion date in December was pushed back to February due to the inconsistent weather this year in Harrisonburg.

The project was initially approved with a $950,000 budget by the Board of Visitors in 2011 to reconstruct the dam. However, it increased to $3.3 million when the University decided to hike it in order to fix other aspects such as water quality and to add aquatic grass around the perimeter.

They also planned to widen the Bluestone Drive entrance, increase the amount of water in the lake and build a new pathway around the perimeter of the lake.

JMU was prompted to reconstruct the dam this past year due to state regulation problems because of the size of the lake, the dam’s instability, its flooding issues and the proximity to the interstate.

“The university used it as an opportunity to clean the water, traffic pattern and the walk way [leading to Bluestone Drive],” Bill Wyatt, JMU’s acting director of communications and spokesperson, said.

With most of the project completed, there are only a few additional add-ons that the construction crew is finishing.

These include adding an aquatic bench made up of plants and rocks to line the perimeter of the lake. To do this, the ground needs to be at a temperature of at least 50 degrees so workers can build and add more lighting around Bluestone Drive. This has to happen during the summer because it may hold up traffic for students and faculty trying to enter or leave campus.

According to Wyatt, the aquatic bench and lighting will be finished when the project is completed this summer. The completed Newman Lake will be ready by the time students come back for the fall semester.

CONTACT Coryn Romano at romanocp@dukes.jmu.edu.
In the past, I've been very skeptical of the University Program Board’s performance to the point where I even wrote an article for The Breeze criticizing its disconnect with students. It seemed like every semester, students waited for UPB’s entertainment announcements with disdain. The worst part is that, generally, the organization blamed its failures on logistical issues like budgeting and scheduling.

Well, I’m here to admit that UPB did an excellent job this year. Truly, I was blown away by the talent this organization was able to bring to JMU. The Big Sean concert will easily be one of my favorite college memories. Almost everyone I spoke to had an absolute blast that night. Jimmy Tatro was also an excellent comedian for this semester. The young star took his college video comedy on the road and most certainly didn’t disappoint. Even getting headliner MAGIC! in the fall wasn’t a bad move.

This year, UPB really proved that it has the ability to transcend logistical confines that have limited its activity in the past.

Overall, I think I speak for the entire student body when I say UPB did a great job this year. It showed us that with the right leadership, this school can attract well-known talent. I think they did a fantastic job balancing big time events with its normal, more “low key” events like late night breakfasts, Grafton movies and comedy shows.

Cheers to UPB, for finally rolling up your sleeves and getting the job done.

Matt D’Angelo is a sophomore media arts and design and political science double major. Contact Matt at dangelmv@dukes.jmu.edu.
Equality for everyone
Same-sex marriage legalized in Virginia last October

Faculty gathered on the steps of Wilson Hall to celebrate Virginia legalizing same-sex marriage, along with five other states.

By ERIN FLYNN
The Breeze

On Oct. 6, 2014, Virginia legalized same-sex marriage. The state’s bans were immediately overturned and marriage licenses were issued after the U.S. Supreme Court declined to rule on cases in Virginia, Oklahoma, Utah, Wisconsin and Indiana.

Several JMU employees, including Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science Robert Alexander, gathered on the Wilson Hall steps that afternoon to celebrate with a shower of confetti.

“We needed that moment to be together and have some solidarity with our allies,” Alexander said. “There was a great mix of people that were there.”

The next day, Virginia’s Director of the Department of Human Resource Management sent out an email notifying state employees that because same-sex marriage was legally recognized in Virginia, health benefits were now extended to same-sex spouses.

As the Supreme Court took up gay marriage cases on April 28, the courts remained divided.

There are 13 states that have yet to legalize same-sex marriage: Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas.

Sen. Bernie Sanders (D-Vt.) believes that gay Americans from all states should have the right to wed.

“Of course all citizens deserve equal rights,” Sanders said in a press release. “It’s time for the Supreme Court to catch up to the American people and legalize gay marriage.”

Justices agreed to decide by the end of their term, which ends in June, whether states that don’t permit same-sex marriage should recognize couples who are legally married in other states.

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SGA votes to ban tobacco
Bill of opinion will be considered by university administration

By MORGAN LYNCH
The Breeze

On April 14, a bill of opinion that would ban smoking on campus passed the JMU Student Government Association in a 20-9 vote with two members of the SGA withholding. The bill needed a two-thirds vote to pass.

The JMU chapter of Colleges Against Cancer and the SGA are planning to present the bill to administration by the end of the spring semester for deliberation.

“I hope to have a solution by the end of the fall semester, ensuring that we have the appropriate administrators in the conversation,” Ryan Windels, a junior political science and public policy and administration double major and the SGA university services committee chair, said.

The bill would ban the use or sale of any tobacco products on campus including e-cigarettes and vapor cigarettes.

The Breeze reported in early April that the bill caused controversy on campus, with some students believing that the new measures would create a healthier environment and some believing that it’s unfair to students and faculty who choose to smoke.

Windels previously referred to this bill as a “bargaining chip.” The SGA and CAC will present the bill to administration in order to see if JMU would be willing to implement more regulation even if they aren’t willing to impose a complete ban. Taylor Woller, a junior special education major and advocacy chair for CAC, hopes that the administration will do more to enforce the rule already in place that people who wish to smoke must stay 25 feet away from buildings.

“I don’t know if a full ban would be implemented, but this bill was designed to keep students healthy and safe, and any variation of that will be a positive result, and worthwhile,” Windels said.

CONTACT Morgan Lynch at lynchma@dukes.jmu.edu.

JMU sued for mishandling case
Sarah Butters takes on university over treatment of sexual assault allegations

By MORGAN LYNCH
The Breeze

Over a year has passed since Sarah Butters first spoke to a university official about an alleged sexual assault on a spring break trip to Panama City Beach, Florida. JMU handed down expulsion after graduation punishments to the three male students involved in April 2014.

On March 5, 2015, Butters filed a lawsuit in United States District Court for the Western District of Virginia for mishandling her case.

Butters didn’t wish to comment to The Breeze on the matter.

On March 6, 2015, JMU released a statement about the lawsuit. The university stated, “Rest assured that as this process unfolds and is resolved, you will see that JMU handles such serious matters with integrity and compassion.” The university also stated that it can share more information about the situation through the proper channels now that Butters has filed a lawsuit.

The complaint states that Butters was allegedly assaulted by Jay Dertzbaugh, Michael Lunney, Jr. and Nicholas Scallion in March of 2013. The incident was recorded on video and later shared with a portion of the student body. Dertzbaugh is still enrolled at JMU according to the campus directory. He didn’t respond to The Breeze’s request for an interview.

JMU is one of 60 schools placed under federal investigation by the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights for the mishandling of sexual assault cases.

JMU hasn’t filed its response in district court, according to Bill Wyatt, JMU’s acting director of communications and spokesperson for the university. JMU has until May 4 to do so.

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Best reviews of the year

**BEST TV SHOW:** “**UNBREAKABLE KIMMY SCHMIDT**”
**BY ROBYN SMITH | THE BREEZE**

“The sadistic cult leader that kept Schmidt and three other women trapped underground is played charmingly by Jon Hamm, who brings an irritating gregariousness to the role that made me love to hate him.”

**BEST MOVIE:** “**THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER**”
**BY MIKE DOLZER | THE BREEZE**

“By the time the birds, pirate and dolphin got to the rapping, the story had clearly ended and we would all get to celebrate with the beloved tune of our pal in the pineapple, but alas, the movie snuck one more pop culture reference in with the rap battle.”

**BEST RESTAURANT:** **CHOPHOUSE**
**BY EMMA KORYNTA | THE BREEZE**

“If you’re feeling adventurous in the sandwich department, The Meatball will change your world. Just the smell of this sub transports you to a little café in Italy.”

**BEST ALBUM:** “**IF YOU’RE READING THIS IT’S TOO LATE**”
**BY EMMY FREEDMAN | THE BREEZE**

“This mixtape displays Drake at his most exposed, with all his annoyances and grievances in the open. We can pick him apart but he asserts with this album that he’ll be going out with a bang, whether it’s tomorrow or in 50 years.”

Check out the full reviews at breezejmu.org.
Freshman triplets
By Julia Nelson | The Breeze

Freshman triplets and Virginia Beach natives Allyson, Bridgette and Collette Yoder all decided to come to JMU last fall and The Breeze profiled them in February. The girls moved around a lot when they were younger, so they relied on each other to navigate through the changes. Last semester, the three started having lunch together every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, a tradition that they have kept to this day. The trio will be living together next semester with Allyson’s roommate from this year.

Student pays own way
By Robyn Smith | The Breeze

Junior social work major Khrystale Amaya pays for all of her own tuition, rent and other costs of living and was featured in a story in October. She and her boyfriend Ben Krause, a junior psychology major, still share a one-bedroom apartment. She now volunteers every week at Cat’s Cradle, a cat adoption center downtown, and First Step, a local shelter for victims of domestic abuse. Her kitten Reya, adopted from Cat’s Cradle last semester, was recently diagnosed with chronic asthma, but Cat’s Cradle has helped Amaya and Krause with the veterinary care bills.

Blue Nile closes its doors
By Dominique Lategano | The Breeze

This past October, one of the valley’s favorite music venues shut its doors. Downtown Harrisonburg’s Blue Nile, held its last show on Sunday, October 19. Mark Finks, the basement manager of six years, gave a nearly tearful goodbye when he told the sold-out crowd, “It’s been amazing doing all these shows; I feel like I’ve seen so many of you grow up,” Finks said. “A lot of you have been coming to these shows since you were 18 and you’re all adults now. I’m really proud of everybody; thank you so much.” As of April 17, the space has been taken over by The Golden Pony.

A bigger downtown
By Life staff

This spring, five new restaurants teased their openings in downtown Harrisonburg: Pale Fire Brewing Co., Social BBQ, Back Bay Brewing Co., Pure Eats and Shenandoah Joe. In a spread in the April 7 issue of The Breeze. Also, the Farmers Market returned with fresh produce and other offerings for the new season. Four of the restaurants are open now, with Back Bay Brewing Co. not opening for “a month or two,” according to an employee at its Virginia Beach location.

Lottery of a lifetime
By Mike Dolzer | The Breeze

In 2010, freshman Martina Samoel’s mother won the Diversity Visa Program, or ‘Green Card Lottery,’ organized by the U.S. State Department, moving her family from war-torn Egypt to Richmond, Virginia. One of her aunts previously won the lottery and moved to the same street in Richmond. At the time of the original story in February, she was waiting on her other aunt, whose husband also won this rare lottery, to move to the area. That aunt moved here soon after the story, and Samoel is “thrilled” to have more family nearby.
MEMORABLE SPORTS MOMENTS OF THE YEAR

SEPTEMBER | Men’s soccer wins CAA title, Tom Martin leaves

After 29 years as the JMU men’s soccer head coach, Tom Martin won’t return next season, announced in September. Over his 38 total years as a head coach, including time at what’s now Trine University and West Virginia Wesleyan College, Martin ended his career fifth on the Division I coaches wins list with a career record of 478-199-68. In 2014, Martin led the Dukes to a 10-8-4 record and a Colonial Athletic Association conference championship as a No. 6 seed. JMU lost to No. 16-ranked University of North Carolina 6-0 in the first round of the NCAA tournament. After 12 seasons of serving under Martin, Tom Foley is now in Martin’s place as head coach, after officially taking over in January.

PHOTO BY DANIHELLE EPIFANIO / THE BREEZE

NOVEMBER | Dukes fall to Liberty 26-21 in first round

On Sunday, Nov. 23, the JMU football team gathered in the club level of Bridgeforth Stadium to watch the ESPNU selection show for the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs. The Dukes found out they were slated to play against in-state rival Liberty University on Saturday, Nov. 29 at Bridgeforth Stadium. But, stifled by Liberty with a scoreless second half of the game, the Dukes fell to the Flames 26-21. At the helm, first-year head coach Everett Withers guided the Dukes to a 9-4 overall record, and a 6-2 record in the Colonial Athletic Association. Before this year, the last time the Dukes made the postseason was in 2011. This was also the first time since 2008 that Harrisonburg was the site for a playoff football game.
**JANUARY** | Andre Nation dismissed from JMU basketball team

After two-and-a-half seasons and 21 suspended games, head men's basketball coach Matt Brady announced on Wednesday, Jan. 15 that Andre Nation was dismissed from the team. Brady believed that Nation no longer fit in the program and that it was time for change. Nation, a 6-foot-5 junior guard, was part of the freshman class that helped get the Dukes to the NCAA tournament in 2013. Nation was named a preseason First Team All-Colonial Athletic Association selection before the 2014-2015 season. In the 12 games that he played last season, he averaged nine points per game in 27.4 minutes of play per game.

**MARCH** | JMU tops Hofstra, repeats as CAA champions and earns bid to the NCAA Tournament for the second straight year

In March, the JMU women's basketball team won the Colonial Athletic Association championship for the second year in a row. In a 62-56 victory over Hofstra University, the top-seeded Dukes once again punched their ticket to the NCAA tournament. The win marked head coach Kenny Brooks' fourth conference title and JMU's eighth title in school history. The Dukes went on to fall to Ohio State University 90-80 in the first round of the NCAA tournament and finished the season 29-4.

**APRIL** | Jailyn Ford throws JMU's first perfect game ever

On April 15, junior pitcher Jailyn Ford threw the first perfect game in JMU softball’s 14-year history in a 13-0 win against East Carolina University. She struck out 13 batters in the process. It was the sixth time she had fanned double-digit opponents in a game this season. Ford also became the all-time JMU strikeout leader, breaking the previous record of 581 that day. The Dukes are hosting the 2015 Colonial Athletic Association Championship from May 6 to May 8 at Veteran’s Memorial Park as the No. 1 seed.
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