

Wright State University

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The Guardian, Week of December 7, 2020

Wright State Student Body

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The Wright State GUARDIAN

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Weekly Horoscopes
Star Signer
December 7, 2020

Life can be rough sometimes. Read on for a quick gift of inspiration or a positive reminder that you deeply need at this moment based on your zodiac sign.

ARIES

“If you can dream it you can be it”

TAURUS

“Dream without fear and love without limits.”

GEMINI

“If you don’t have anything nice to say, don’t say anything at all.”

CANCER

“Don’t worry, be happy”

LEO

“Your life is as good as your mindset”

VIRGO

“Teamwork makes the dream work.”

LIBRA

“Be the kindness you wish to see in the world.”

SCORPIO

“Patience is a virtue”

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SAGITTARIUS

“Be curious, not judgemental.”

CAPRICORN

“When nothing goes right, go left.”

AQUARIUS

Life’s a journey, not a race.”

PISCES

“Don’t be the same, be better.”



How To Return Your Rentals To the Bookstore

Noah Kindig

December 7, 2020

The end of the semester is fast approaching, which means it's time to turn back in your rented books to the WSU bookstore.

Rented books are due Friday Dec. 11, and the bookstore will remain semi-open through appointments until the 18th.

How to give books back in person

The bookstore is open by appointment-only. For General Manager Elizabeth Russel, this is to keep everyone safe.

"Not only do [appointments] limit foot traffic, but it also gets people in and out by themselves without much issue," said Russel. "Of course, masks are required on the floor, but that's basically the same throughout the university."

The last appointments will be the week of the 13th-18th of December and are open from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

In order to schedule your in-person appointment, go here:

<https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/WrightStateUniversity@bncollege.com/bookings/>

Through mail

If you rented your books in person, you are able to mail them back in. In order to mail your books back in, you first need your order number.

If you ordered your books online, you received your order number in the mail along with your books. If you got your books in person, you can find your order number in an email sent to you from the bookstore.

"If you bought your books in the store, you wouldn't have gotten your order number right there," Russel said. "What happens is we send you a reminder email just to let you know your books need to be back soon, and on that email, you will receive your order number, to then take to our website for a shipping return label."

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How do I make sure I'm doing it right?

“All I can suggest is to be very conscious of our social media,” Russel said. “That’s the quickest and easiest way to get information out. We post reminders, updates, and any changes that happen. Just be sure to get your books back to us.”

While you’re working on turning in your fall semester books, be sure to look ahead to spring semester as well.

“We’re focusing on getting our rentals right now, but we’re also preparing for next semester too... with shipping and everything, it helps us out to get our orders in sooner rather than later and get your books for you.” Russel said.

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Ninth Annual Raidersgiving: Same Event, New Process

Maxwell Patton

December 7, 2020

Wright State University (WSU) students of all nationalities came together Nov. 25 for the 9th Annual Raidersgiving. More than 500 meals were prepared and distributed by volunteers for students, faculty and staff to take home and enjoy.

A new event during the pandemic

Due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, Raidersgiving was not able to be a traditional gathering this year. This caused the committee planning the event, including Administrative Project Manager for Board Relations & Special Events Fran Keeley, to have to think outside the box.

“Our thought process on it was we didn’t want to not do it, especially now, because people are so isolated,” said Keeley. “Sometimes, you feel like maybe nobody cares.”

The idea behind Raidersgiving this year was to share in a Thanksgiving tradition and to provide a warm meal for those who were staying on campus during Thanksgiving break.

“We just talked through it and decided that at least we could give them the meal or give them enough food,” said Keeley. “Maybe you’re a student that has a spouse and maybe a child. At least, that’s four meals we could hand you.”

The work of volunteers and employees

Chartwells and its executive director Haitham Shtaieh were major players in getting the 2020 Raidersgiving up and running.

“[Shtaieh] immediately knew he would have employees on campus that Wednesday, even though classes were not in session,” said Keeley. “His people certainly made all the food. They all took care of that, but we did ask for volunteers to help.”

Around 25 volunteers were brought in to assist with the event.

“Every year, we get more volunteers than we really need,” said Keeley. “People really want to be a part of it, so it’s not a hardship to get people to help us.”

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Four different meal options were offered. One of these was a traditional Thanksgiving meal, and gluten-free and vegan options were also on the menu. The last option was a halal meal, which had to be prepared a certain way.

“We’ve been doing that because that helps us understand what other cultures deal with,” said Keeley. “And, of course, it’s delicious.”

The day of Raidersgiving

The first set of volunteers arrived early in the day and were given general instructions by Shtaieh. Everyone had to wear face coverings, and volunteers were assigned to their different meals. After this, an assembly line was put in place to package the meals and add reheating instructions.

“Everybody has their place,” said Keeley. “We have people at a registration desk to greet our guests to tell them how it’s going to work as they walk into the Apollo Room because, obviously, that has to be done with protocol.”

Those who came to pick up food entered one door, received up to four of the meals, and exited out a different door. Each person also got a WSU bag that contained hand sanitizer, masks with the university logo and a note from WSU President Sue Edwards, among other items.

The social distancing and mask mandates during the event were enforced by line monitors, though reminding people of these requirements was hardly needed.

“It was really spaced out nicely how people showed up, but if that were to have happened, they would have just said, ‘remember you need to be six feet back,’” said Keeley. “I don’t think we had any mask issues at all. Most everybody had a mask on. Most people were just happy to be there. It’s a very festive atmosphere.”

One of the tables at the event was reserved for prizes, which anyone who registered for Raidersgiving had a shot at receiving. These prizes were donated by Barnes & Noble, Intercollegiate Athletics and Pepsi.

Reactions from students

Many students were thankful to receive this meal, and some stopped to converse with the Raidersgiving staff. One of the students who attended was computer science major Jonathan Goble, who believes that the process was fairly easy.

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“I was in and out quickly for pickup, and the meal was easy to reheat. I miss the hot food off the serving line from previous years, but we couldn’t do that this year, so this was a decent substitute,” said Goble.

International students and Raidersgiving

A large number of students who attended were international students, who came to Raidersgiving because of an inability to travel home and a sense of loneliness.

“Raidersgiving this year became even more important for international students so that they feel less lonely, that they know they’re part of our broader community, and to let them know that we care,” said UCIE director Streeter-Ferrari, whose organization was a Raidersgiving sponsor.

“We got a lot of amazing responses from our international students on that day, feeling exactly what we had intended, that Wright State does care and they’re part of our community and they are welcome here.”

The event was also sponsored by Chartwells, the Raider Food Pantry, the Wright State Foundation and WSU alum Eric Bigler.

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Breaking: Conversion of Failing Grades for Summer and Fall Semesters Approved

Nicolas Benvenuto

December 7, 2020

During the Wright State University (WSU) Faculty Senate meeting on Dec. 7, WSU Faculty Senators proposed and unanimously voted in support of converting undergraduate students failing grades for both summer and fall semesters to a U grade, and X grades to XU.

Converting a student's failing grade to that of U or XU, prevents that undergraduate students' GPA from being affected, as U and XU grades are not calculated into grade point averages.

Why change grades?

"With the very difficult transition into this fall semester, the proposal before you is meant to try to help people who have struggled in one or multiple classes, and so that their GPA is not harmed," said Faculty Senate President Laura Luehrmann while addressing the proposal.

Students who receive a failing grade due to violations of academic integrity however, are not included within this process.

"Any student who receives an F grade as a result of sanction for a violation of academic integrity, that F grade will stand."

Faculty Senate President Luehrmann informed Senators that this is the same practice that was followed last spring, where failing grade conversions also took place.

"After grades are filed there will be a batch grade conversion," said Luehrmann.

"Then the Registrar's Office reaches out to the Student Conduct Office for a list of students who have received an F grade because of a violation of academic integrity. At this time, that converted grade of an XU goes back to the original F grade."

President Luehrmann also stated that acting in fairness, there will also be failing grade conversions for those students who received an F grade during the summer semester.

"We have worked very closely with the Financial Aid Office, Student Success and with the Registrar," said Luehrmann.

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“Last summer there were 323 students who received either an F or an X grade during the semester. We will be changing the transcripts of these students to accurately reflect the proposal approved today, which will in turn increase the GPA of those 323 students.”

Discussion to include students at the graduate level in grade conversion efforts was brought up amongst Faculty Senators, however once voted upon, was declined by the majority to be included.

Addressing questions

With grade conversion policies now approved, students may be wondering whether or not this is something they have to opt-in to, or if grade changing procedures will happen automatically.

“All faculty will submit their grades no later than noon on Dec. 16. At this time, all grades of F will be automatically converted to U. All X grades will be converted to XU,” according to WSU.

“Similar to the impact of an F or X grade, the grade of U or XU does not confer credit. The U or XU grade will not be factored into the student’s grade point average. Hours are still counted as attempted, but not earned, and have the same impact on completion and maximum timeframe for financial aid satisfactory academic progress,” according to WSU.

In regard to questions concerning financial aid, both X and XU grades indicate that at some point the student stopped participating in the course and are therefore considered to have unofficially withdrawn from the course, and are subject to Return of Title IV.

“Both the X and XU grade denote that a student attended or participated in a course effort but did not complete the course or officially withdraw,” WSU said. “If a student receives a X or XU grade in combination with all other grades being a combination of W, N, NR, NU, W, and K, they are considered to have unofficially withdrawn and are subject to Return of Title IV.”

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Contact Tracing: The Process and WSU's Protocols

Nicolas BenVenuto

December 8, 2020

As Greene County remains at a level 3 red alert, contact tracing amongst those individuals who test positive for coronavirus is a crucial step to mitigate the spread of this potentially deadly virus.

What does this mean?

A level 3 red alert places Wright State University (WSU) students, faculty and staff in the upper level of the Ohio alert advisory system and warns the community of very high exposure and spread rates, while also encouraging those in the county to limit daily activities as much as possible.

As of Dec. 4, the Greene County Public Health Department website reports 6,138 confirmed cases of coronavirus within the county.

Updated on Dec. 3, WSU's coronavirus dashboard lists a total of 47 students and 12 employees with active coronavirus cases.

The Ohio Department of Public Health states that those who test positive for the coronavirus, must self-isolate for a minimum of 14 days with an exception only to seek medical care.

WSU contact tracing

WSU's coronavirus health and safety protocols page states that, "Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will first receive a phone call from the physician or care provider who ordered the laboratory test. The care provider then notifies the local public health department to begin the case investigation and contact tracing."

At WSU, this contact tracing process is handled by the university's Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) office, directed by Dr. Marjorie Markopoulos.

"The purpose of the call from local public health is to educate the individual about their exposure, ask the individual to self-isolate, and inquire about the daily activities on the days before testing. Individuals will be asked to report the locations they visited and all interpersonal interactions that occurred over the previous days," says WSU's website.

A close contact encounter is defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as any individual who was within six feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from two days before illness onset or, for asymptomatic patients, two days before positive specimen collection until the time the positive individual is isolated.

Surviving the coronavirus

“My husband was sick first, then I just had a headache and some nasal drainage to start out,” said 56-year-old Ohio native Wendy Frady. “Over the next few days my eye sockets were hurting really bad, and I had a fever accompanied with loss of taste and smell.”

This was just the beginning for Frady, who said that the after effects of contracting the coronavirus can be just as scary as the initial shock.

“When you have the flu, it usually lasts for a few days,” Frady said. “This lasted for 2 weeks, and then I felt fatigued for another 2 weeks after, while also having terrible chest pains and pains in my left arm. It was to the point where I thought I might be having a heart attack. I was more nervous about my husband getting it though, because he has COPD. Thank heavens it did not get in his lungs!”

Frady, who works in the nursing home industry, says that she is surrounded by the virus and has seen the toll that it takes on the elderly in her community.

“There are cases everywhere and many, many deaths. I think the scariest part is that some people do not have any symptoms and are out passing it around unknowingly,” said Frady. “This virus is so unpredictable and different for everyone.”

Frady said that unfortunately in her case, little was done to investigate where her and her husband had contracted the virus, though the Public Health Department did require a two-week quarantine as well as continued mask wearing.

“No one called to investigate our cases, but we completed the required quarantine period and still make sure to wear our masks everywhere,” Frady said. “If you are feeling ill, don’t be afraid to get tested. Wear a mask and stay at a safe distance as much as you can. This is all we can really do.”

To view Wright State University’s coronavirus dashboard, visit:

<https://www.wright.edu/coronavirus/covid-19-dashboard>

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For more information on contact tracing from the CDC, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/contact-tracing.html>

To keep up-to-date on the Greene County Alert Advisory System, visit: <http://www.gcph.info/>

For the latest Ohio Department of Public Health quarantine procedures, visit:

http://www.gcph.info/files/announcements/attachments/1072_COVID-19_Guidance_Quarantine.pdf

Editor's note: WSU Director of Environmental Health and Safety, Dr. Marjorie Markopoulos was contacted for comments on contact tracing but was unable to comment at this time.

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End of Semester: Books to Read Based on Your Mood

Ariel Parker

December 8, 2020

We finally did it — we finished fall semester and 2020 is nearly over. Whether this is your first semester at Wright State University (WSU) or you have been with us all year, it's time to turn off your brain and relax this winter break.

Even if it was your best semester yet or one that could have gone better, here are some books that you should read depending on how you feel finishing this semester.

Relieved

You are just glad that it is finally over — and aren't we all? Regardless of how you finished, you are mostly relieved that it is over and you get a few weeks to relax. You are ready for something quick but engaging, and maybe something that you can chew on if you decide to continue in the series.

“All Systems Red” by Martha Wells is the first novella in “The Murderbot Diaries” where a self-aware and sarcastic droid (who refers to itself as “Murderbot”) travels with a team of scientists to a desolate planet only to discover that things are not as they seem. The first book is only 150 pages long, and you will absolutely fly through this tongue-in-cheek action-packed adventure.

Encouraged

Look at you! You managed to stay afloat even when things got tough and you are ready to take on the day. If you want to keep the momentum this winter break, try “The Queen's Gambit” by Walter Tevis.

Recently adapted into a binge-able Netflix show, you can read the book before tuning in and be on the edge of your seat as you follow an orphan chess prodigy from her competitive childhood to her turbulent early adulthood.

Disappointed

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We get it — this was probably not the greatest semester for a multitude of reasons. It is time to take a deep breath, look to next semester and see what you can do better. But before that, it is important to be kind to yourself and understand that we are all trying our best.

If you are looking for something short and sweet, “An Enchantment of Ravens” by Magaret Rogerson will definitely fit the bill. When a human accidentally paints human emotion in a fae prince’s eyes, he must take her to his world to stand trial for her crime. This YA fantasy romance is short but filled with a breathtaking world and a slow, beautiful romance that will completely suck you in, at least for a little while.

Thankful

While this semester, and admittedly this entire year, has been a whirlwind, there is still a lot to be thankful for, and simply finishing the semester is an accomplishment in itself and you should be proud. Reward yourself with the touching memoir “The Magical Language of Others” by EJ Koh.

This is another short book that follows the author as she moves to America from South Korea and is sent letters she cannot fully understand until she finds them in a box and translates them years later. But be warned, this will surely tug on your heart strings.

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University and Faculty Union Clash Over Retrenchment

Makenzie Hoeflerlin

December 8, 2020

On Monday evening, Wright State University (WSU) sent an email to the community explaining the ongoing process of the faculty workforce reduction while also clarifying specific information the university believes to be inaccurate.

Retrenchment process

On Nov. 12, WSU announced upcoming faculty cuts and program mergers to comply with declining enrollment rates.

The entrenchment process has begun and will comply with the obligations outlined in article 17 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with the faculty union.

WSU has cited the reason for retrenchment as “significant reduction in enrollment over at least four semesters that is expected to persist.”

The university has formed a committee that will bring recommendations to President Sue Edwards. Both union representatives and administration members make up the committee. This committee will have 60 days to submit its recommendations. Simultaneously, Interim Provost Douglas Leaman is working with college deans.

After both the committee and Leaman present recommendations to Edwards, she will then present a plan to the Board of Trustees for potential approval.

Addressing misinformation

The email also addresses some issues that the University believes to be misinformation.

“Unfortunately, some from our campus community have attempted to unnecessarily create fear and panic within a variety of constituencies, most notably among Wright State’s students and alumni, without even giving the mutually agreed upon process a chance to begin,” according to the university. “This is reprehensible and, in the end, runs the risk of further exacerbating the university’s already declining enrollment—the very impetus for these anticipated bargaining unit faculty reductions.”

Defining an extreme situation

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The university claims that the retrenchment has been referred to as an “extreme action” but argues that it has been mutually agreed upon and approved by AAUP membership. The university also states that this is a similar action to other universities with unionized faculty.

According to WSU Faculty Union President Noeleen McIlvenna, the retrenchment process was agreed upon in the very first contract 21 years ago, for an extreme situation. However, the definition of “extreme situation,” does not seem to be agreed upon.

McIlvenna mentioned Antioch University in Yellow Springs, Ohio as an example of an extreme situation.

“They were down to their last 10 students. It was on the verge of collapse. That is an extreme situation,” said McIlvenna. “We wrote the contract for an extreme situation. We said ‘yes, if that happens, the university is absolutely going to go bankrupt. So we agreed to those provisions.’”

WSU professor and AAUP-WSU officer Tom Rooney believes that retrenchment is a major undertaking by the administration that may not be necessary at this point in time.

“Retrenchment is really a last ditch effort to save an institution that is on the verge of collapse. That is how it is traditionally used,” said Rooney. “By the time the university goes to retrenchment, they should have tried all kinds of other things to try to save money.”

Rooney also argued that WSU is not in a financial situation that warrants drastic measures such as retrenchment.

“The strange thing about it is that if you look at our financial position, we have not been in financial shape this good since 2014. We had some very difficult years (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018) where we were in really bad financial shape. But we are in much better financial shape now,” said Rooney.

One of the deciding factors in considering whether or not retrenchment is necessary is if the decline in enrollment is believed to persist.

Wright State administration believes it is expected to do so according to their cited reason for retrenchment in the email.

“[The university anticipates] a significant reduction in enrollment over at least four semesters that is expected to persist,” according to the email.

However, not everyone believes this to be the case.

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“Falling enrollment has happened. That part is true, but it has to be expected to persist, and we don’t believe that it is expected to persist,” said McLevenna. “We think that we’ve had a couple of bad years, sure, but there is no reason to believe that Wright State won’t start recovering pretty quickly.”

“The fundamental problem is that students are not choosing Wright State, and that is a problem that is fixable,” said Rooney. “Not only do I think it is not fixable by retrenchment, I think retrenchment makes it worse. I believe in Wright State and I know we’ve got fantastic programs and really smart faculty. We’ve got all the right pieces in place. The question is ‘can we convince people in the Dayton area that we are going to be here in two years.’”

University denies claims made by AAUP

In the email, WSU addressed many other complaints and accusations such as not trusting the university’s numbers and the university using the pandemic as justification to cut faculty.

In an attempt to clarify these statements, WSU argued that the university’s enrollment is tracked publicly and submitted to the state and the federal government. They also stated that the university’s enrollment began to decline long before the pandemic.

Finally, the university addressed a recent claim from an AAUP-WSU FAQ.

This claim stated: “Even if your program remains in existence, as the administration promises, reduced numbers of faculty will result in substantially fewer available courses, or your required courses may be offered less frequently. This will inevitably increase the cost of your education by lengthening the time required for many of you to complete your programs of study and graduate,” according to the university.

The university responded by denying these claims.

“This is a baseless and categorically untrue statement. The university has always prioritized, and will always prioritize, a commitment to our students, and there is no reason to believe that faculty retrenchment will prolong the time it takes to earn a degree at this institution, or that retrenchment will cause the cost of a degree from this institution to increase,” according to the university.

According to McLevenna, this was just a small portion of the FAQ and took the information out of context.

“This is just basic math. If you have 10 teachers in a department and they are offering 50 courses a year, then if you had five, they would offer 25 courses. There will be fewer sections of

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the mandatory courses and fewer choices in your electives. If there are fewer sections in those mandatory courses, that means there will be much more difficulty scheduling,” said McLevenna.

The FAQ was distributed to students by some faculty earlier this week, according to McLevenna.

This is a developing story.

AIDS Awareness: WSU's Past Research and Advocacy

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

December 9, 2020

Dec. 1 was World AIDS Day, the kickoff to a month-long campaign for AIDS Awareness. Wright State University (WSU) has been actively involved in HIV/AIDS research and testing advocacy throughout the last several decades.

What is AIDS

HIV is a virus that attacks the cells in a person's body that are designed to fight off illnesses, and when left untreated turns into AIDS, an immunodeficiency disorder that can kill an individual within a few years.

"HIV is a sexually transmitted infection (STI). It can also be spread by contact with infected blood or from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth or breast-feeding," said a representative of the Mayo Clinic staff earlier this year. "Without medication, it may take years before HIV weakens your immune system to the point that you have AIDS."

While there is no cure for HIV or AIDS, medication has been developed to help delay the progression of the disease by several years. Symptoms appear similar to a flu virus and generally occur within a few weeks of initial transmission.

A red ribbon has been the symbol for AIDS awareness since 1991.

WSU's AIDS advocacy and research

Although it does not appear that WSU may be engaged in any AIDS awareness events this year, the university has been in years past.

From Sept. 1991 to June 1996, a group of WSU faculty was involved in the Dayton-Columbus AIDS Prevention Research Project, a research program funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) as part of its Cooperative Agreement for AIDS Community-Based Outreach/Intervention Research.

"The goals of the Cooperative Agreement were to: (1) monitor the nature and extent of drug use and HIV-related risk-taking behavior in an out-of-treatment drug-using population and (2) assess the efficacy of various interventions designed to contain the spread of AIDS," said a representative from the WSU Boonshoft School of Medicine.

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In recent years, Wright State Physicians have encouraged students to get tested for HIV/AIDS.

“People can have HIV, yet still feel healthy,” said WSU Physician Robert L. Brandt, Jr., M.D. on World AIDS Day 2017. “We recommend that everyone ages 15 to 65 get tested for HIV at least once.”

WSU was a testing site for HIV/AIDS in Nov 2018. At-home HIV/AIDS tests are also available at many pharmacies and are encouraged, as many in-person testing opportunities are currently limited due to the global coronavirus pandemic.

For more information on HIV/AIDS, visit:

https://hivcare.org/hiv-basics/?gclid=CjwKCAiA_Kz-BRAJEiwAhJNY7-58fbMpglsQtPe054n0IN0j4_GpQgA-88lxdze-i_czOyxrpnMRohoCIHsQAvD_BwE

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WSU and Fairborn PD Work to Minimize Spread of COVID

Nicolas BenVenuto

December 9, 2020

While Greene County remains a red alert level 3 under the county's health department advisory alert system, a collective effort between the Wright State University (WSU) Police Department (PD) and the City of Fairborn PD is minimizing the spread of the coronavirus both on and off campus.

Working relationship

"The police department has a great working relationship with the university," said Lt. Kurt Holden of the WSU PD. "Our department has been involved since the beginning of COVID-19 to assist students, staff and faculty in providing a safe and secure environment."

Lt. Holden says that communication amongst WSU's Environmental Health and Safety Department (EHS) and police has been crucial in the fight against the coronavirus at the Dayton campus.

"The department's leadership has been involved in the COVID-19 task force and other forms of COVID-19 planning/response on multiple occasions," Lt. Holden said.

Communication between university police and university officials is not limited to just EHS, but extends to other university officials as well.

"Our police department has had meetings and conversations with many members of the university community in regards to COVID-19," Lt. Holden said.

Sgt. Ben Roman of Fairborn PD says that his department has continually maintained a good working relationship with the university even before the start of the coronavirus, staff and students included.

"We value them as members of our community," Sgt. Roman said. "We strive to educate the public in regards to safe practices and current restrictions/curfews."

WSU compliance

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The hard work put in by both Fairborn PD and WSU PD would be null and void if students, staff and faculty of the WSU community didn't follow the guidelines put in place by the CDC and the public health departments, but fortunately for all involved, this isn't the case at all.

"As to my knowledge, Wright State University students have been doing a good job in complying with current mandates and restrictions," Sgt. Roman said. "The Fairborn Police Department appreciates all members of our community, including Wright State University students, for doing their part to stay safe and healthy."

WSU PD echoed this sense of pride within the Wright State community, saying that while some minor violations of coronavirus safety protocols have occurred off-campus, nothing major has been brought to their attention.

In the event that a major violation was found, action steps would be taken by the university.

"Their actions would be documented by either hall staff or law enforcement and referred to Student Conduct," Said Lt. Holden. "Sanctions for students could include a warning, probation, loss of campus housing, or suspension for repeated or egregious behavior."

Raider pride

Fairborn resident and WSU alumnus Zack Kriel says that he is proud of his alma mater and the hard work put in by both departments to keep the community safe.

"I still live in Fairborn, so it eases my mind to know that not only is my alma mater doing everything they can to keep people safe, but my city's police officers are doing just the same. In a time when it can be hard to find peace of mind, this has done just that," said Kriel.

Kriel says that he has noticed an increased awareness of the coronavirus in the local community in recent weeks.

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Student Opinions: Is Gov. Dewine Doing Enough?

Jamie Naylor

December 9, 2020

Some Wright State University (WSU) students are still conflicted on whether Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine's efforts are enough.

Views on mandates

On Nov. 17 Gov. DeWine sanctioned a stricter mask mandate, followed by a statewide 10 p.m. curfew order on Nov. 19. This order lasts for 21 days and ends on Dec. 10.

WSU students like Lauren Lemmings felt that the restrictions were adequate.

"I think the higher government did a really good job at addressing the severity of COVID-19," said Lemmings.

Others like Drew Gillum feel that Gov. DeWine is not doing enough.

"I think right now we definitely need a lot more restrictions, having a really strict lockdown is really the only way to do it," said Gillum.

These orders sparked outrage from Ohio's Republican party, for fears that the orders were too strict. In response to this Republican State Representatives have filed 12 articles of impeachment against Gov. DeWine. These efforts have little impact and DeWine is set to continue restrictions.

Safety

Despite disagreement on whether the Ohio government should do more or less to stop the spread of the coronavirus, students generally agree they feel safer due to restrictions.

Liam Garry, a WSU junior and essential worker, feels that mask mandates, curfews and contactless delivery options keep him safe at his work.

"I do not really have any fears of going to work," said Garry.

Due to the size of the state and personal freedom attitudes, it can be harder for the state government to enforce its policies causing varying levels of confidence in safety measures.

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Lemmings points out Gov. DeWine's restrictions and measures only have an effect if citizens follow them.

"If it's a small local place, I feel safer than I would if I was going somewhere more public, just because some people don't believe in masking," Lemmings said.

Dayton's Not Dead: Blind Rage Records
Maxwell Patton
December 10, 2020

Blind Rage Records opened in the music-driven city of Dayton during the coronavirus pandemic. They sell vinyl records from punk and hardcore artists from their location on Watervliet Ave.

An extension of the record label

Musician and Blind Rage Records owner James Downing-Groth named the store after his independent record label of the same name.

The Blind Rage moniker was earned through one of the owners' projects.

"We actually named the label Blind Rage purely because we were in a band that was called that, and we were sitting on boxes of t-shirts that already said it," said Downing-Groth. "It has become this joke that the name went from a band to a label to a store. We joke that we're going to open a food truck or something."

A new business idea

Downing-Groth came up with the idea for the store about three weeks before its opening because of an overabundance of the label's records sitting in his house.

"I've sold at record fairs for the past fifteen or so years, and I was already sitting on boxes and boxes of records for that, so we had an easy start," said Downing-Groth.

He did not inform anyone about the store's opening until the week before. Blind Rage Records is unique for an opening during the pandemic, a crisis that has caused many small businesses to struggle. However, that situation did not affect the record store's early days negatively.

"I think that the pandemic made a lot of things easier because not a lot of people are looking for retail spaces in the middle of a global pandemic, and, also, going down to apply for all of the permits and stuff was really easy because there were no lines," said Downing-Groth. "No one was there."

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The location picked for the store is a small office space situated in Dayton's Belmont neighborhood. Downing-Groth believes that stumbling upon this spot was the best possible scenario that could have happened for the store.

"It was perfect, and a right place, right time kind of situation," said Downing-Groth.

Finding the perfect album

Blind Rage Records opened to the general public on Aug. 1, and the store was expanded two weeks ago to double the number of records that could be displayed.

Only three customers are allowed in the store at a time, and they are required to wear masks while inside.

Downing-Groth believes that the shop opened at the right time because Daytonians were hungry for new music and the local record stores were closed at the time.

"You always have to have music," said Downing-Groth. "I listen to music literally all day, every day. It's an easy thing. People always buy records, people always buy music, and it's not like a restaurant. It's a different experience. You're not going to come in here to sit with four of your friends and enjoy drinks. You're coming in to dig and get your stuff and get out."

This aspect, looking around a shop for new vinyl, is Downing-Groth's favorite part of music.

"I love finding records," said Downing-Groth. "Finding something you've been looking for is the best thing, and that's always been what got me is the physical aspect and hunting."

Though punk and hardcore music is a major part of the shop's catalog, customers browsing the shelves at Blind Rage Records can expect to find albums from a variety of genres.

Student opinions

Geography major Kenna Thomas and psychology student Lindsey Shaffer had not heard of Blind Rage Records, though they are both interested in visiting the store.

Thomas recently began collecting vinyl records. They enjoy going to record stores to look at album art and seeing rare editions of records along with what their family recommends to them.

"My parents used to play them on the weekends when making brunch, so it definitely makes me nostalgic to play records," said Thomas.

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Shaffer believes the best aspect of visiting these stores is seeing how much life has changed between the days of vinyl and the digital age.

“I think it’s so cool how we stream it digitally now,” said Shaffer. “People who have full rein to get music through YouTube can support the artist in a different way by purchasing records. I don’t personally own any, but I love how we can be transported in time by a record.”

A member of the community

Downing-Groth is proud that customers consistently journey to his shop to purchase music, and is thankful to be a member of a non-competitive record store community.

“Both Omega and Skeleton Dust have helped me out with stuff, and they’ve both hyped up the store,” said Downing-Groth. “[Our] stereo came from Omega. We have good stores in Dayton and we’re all friends, which is awesome.”

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419 Alive: Ciao Bella Boutique
Roxanne Roessner
December 10, 2020

Ciao Bella, a boutique in downtown Celina, offers women's clothing and accessories. The business originated in St. Henry but owner Renee Rosenbeck moved the boutique to its new home on Main Street in 2014.

History

According to Rosenbeck, they decided to create a space for women in the area to purchase clothes that made them feel comfortable in their skin. The boutique offers clothing sizes from small to three X and has a range of accessories for sale as well. They are located at 211 South Main St, Celina, OH.

"I started at my home in St. Henry in 2014 until the inventory got to be a bit too much for our house. After four years in St. Henry, I decided to move my business to Celina, because my dream has always been to be on a busy Main Street. That move was the best decision for my business, and I truly love being a part of Celina's downtown," said Rosenbeck.

The name for the boutique originated from a playful conversation with Rosenbeck's children.

"Ciao Bella means hello beautiful in Italian, and the phrase actually came from an Italian Mickey Mouse episode that my kids love. Mickey is trying to get Minnie to notice him, and he writes Ciao Bella in the clouds. My kids love that they helped in the naming process, and I love that it revolves around my customers knowing that they are beautiful," said Rosenbeck.

According to local resident Riley Schmidt, the boutique has a different style compared to other places in the area.

Impact of the coronavirus

According to Rosenbeck, the coronavirus changed how they looked at their business. Instead of focusing on the brick-and-mortar store, they had to focus more on online sales.

"I love the relationships built in the storefront setting, but being closed encouraged me to pivot to sell online. So, during the shutdown, we got to work on a website, and now my business is 50% in-store & 50% online which I expect to continue growth in," said Rosenbeck.

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Local resident Lillian Brookhart appreciates the online options for the boutique.

“I had always seen the store, but never actually had time to stop by, but when I found their website, I was able to actually see what they all had to offer,” said Brookhart. “My online shopping has skyrocketed in the past year and I’m glad to be supporting a local business.”

Catering to women

According to Rosenbeck, Ciao Bella caters to women after they have had children. While they still have clothing for all women, Rosenbeck is happy that they can help women to feel comfortable in their newly changed bodies.

“I pay attention to materials, how they will fit curves and the comfort of the pieces. After children the wardrobe needs change, and we are here to help right after and years beyond,” said Rosenbeck.

Ciao Bella offers clothing styles for all women while not sacrificing comfort for style when they can offer both to customers.

Find Ciao Bella on Facebook, Instagram and their website, <https://ciaobellaboutique.net/>. Keep an eye out for the 12 Days of Christmas event on Facebook and Instagram.



Biden's Cabinet and White House Staff: Historic Picks

Jackson Cornwell

December 10, 2020

President-elect Joe Biden has begun to announce his picks to fill his Cabinet and White House staff. Biden has started with several historic picks.

Treasury Department

Biden has announced the nomination of former Federal Reserve chair Janet L. Yellen as treasury secretary. Yellen would be the first woman to lead the Treasury Department if confirmed. Yellen brings decades of experience as an economist having served under Presidents Clinton and Obama.

Biden is expected to nominate Neera Tanden as director of the influential Office of Management and Budget. Tanden is the child of Indian immigrants and would be the first woman of color to oversee the agency.

Cecilia Rouse will be appointed as chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, along with Heather Boushey and Jared Bernstein as the other two members. Rouse, who is African American, would be the first woman of color to chair the council.

"As a female professional I'm thrilled to see women taking on jobs that were previously closed off to them and I'm very interested to see how that changes the country and eventually history," said education major Mackenzie New.

Communications team

Biden has made history in appointing an all-female communications team. His team will be led by Kate Bedingfield, who most recently served as Biden's campaign communications director. Jennifer Psaki will take on the role of White House Press Secretary and she is joined by Pili Tobar as Deputy Communications Director and Karine Jean-Pierre as Principal Deputy Secretary.

Elizabeth Alexander will serve as the Communications Director for future First Lady Jill Biden. Wright State senior Leah Dryden said that as a young woman in politics she is inspired by a diverse all female team.

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“I wanted Biden to be held to his word about having an inclusive cabinet, so I’m very happy that’s actually panning out,” said Dryden.

Advising team

Ron Kline, a long time Biden associate, has been tapped to be the new Chief of Staff. Kline is joined by Biden’s campaign manager Jen O’Malley Dillon as deputy chief of staff.

Mike Donilon and Steve Ricchetti will step in as senior adviser and counselor to the president, respectively.

Harris’ team

Vice-president elect Harris announced on Dec. 3 her chief of staff pick: Tina Flournoy. Flournoy has served as chief of staff for former President Bill Clinton since 2013 amongst several other high-ranking positions in the Democratic party.

Harris also announced that longtime advisor Rohini Kosoglu will serve as domestic policy advisor, and Nancy McElDowney will advise her on national security.

Symone Sanders and Ashley Etienne will serve as Harris’s chief spokesperson and communications director respectively, rounding out the all-female communications team.

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Student-Athlete Spotlight: Jaylon Hall

William Baptist

December 11, 2020

After starting in 28 of the 31 regular-season games last season, Jaylon Hall is going into his redshirt junior season and looking to bounce back from a disappointing end to last year.

Wright State University (WSU) was eliminated by UIC in the semifinals of the Horizon League Tournament, after winning the regular-season championship and being the number 1 seed in the tournament.

“With how things ended last year, I am excited to be able to get back on the floor and play,” said Hall.

Offseason

Because all team facilities and gyms were closed for months, this offseason was unique for Hall and his team.

“It has been a wild offseason. I was excited to get back to campus and back with the team in July. It was long and I am happy that we get a chance to play again,” said Hall.

Once Hall was able to train again, he looked to continue improving as a player.

“Once I was able to get back into the gym, I worked on becoming a better finisher and playing with more pace,” said Hall.

2020-21 Season

The Raiders opened their season at home against Marshall on Dec. 3 and suffered an 80-64 loss.

The Raiders were selected as the favorite to win the Horizon League in the preseason poll for the third consecutive season. This comes with a fair amount of pressure but this is nothing new to this team.

“We feel good about our team. We were picked to win the league so we know we will get everyone’s best shot,” said Hall.

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After averaging 7.8 points per game, 3.6 rebounds per game and 1.1 steals per game, Hall has big expectations for himself this season.

“I would like to be the defensive player of the year in the league,” said Hall.

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Campus Rec: Spring Plans and Possible Indoor Events

Kaitlyn Chrosniak

December 11, 2020

As the fall semester approaches its end, Wright State University's (WSU) Campus Recreation programs are beginning to announce plans for spring.

Indoor recreation

The indoor Campus Recreation offerings are currently scheduled to remain the same next semester. Students will continue to use imleagues to register to use the Fitness Center and Pool in the Student Union.

"We do not anticipate any changes, however that can always change in this very fluid situation," said CREC Program Director Billy Willis. "We plan to continue our workout buddy program through Adapted Recreation on a limited basis."

As of Nov. 23, all club sports practices were canceled with the goal of resuming in January when the spring semester begins. Currently, it is uncertain as to whether or not club sports will be competing or not this spring.

Outdoor recreation

The plans for outdoor recreation in the spring semester remain weather dependent. As of now, both the running and hiking groups on campus will be active through the window.

"Later in the spring we plan to resume our biking and walking groups," said Willis. "More information can be found on imleagues.com on the outdoor tab."

In addition, Outdoor Recreation hopes to add a few off-campus trips for the hiking, running, walking and biking groups in the spring semester as well. These trips, however, would remain within twenty miles of campus.

Group fitness

Group fitness courses will continue to be offered during the duration of the spring semester; however, they will begin online.

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“When the weather begins to change this spring, we plan to resume outdoor classes along with our virtual classes like we did this fall,” said Willis.

A similar plan is in place for intramural sports next semester.

“We will be doing virtual events only early on and as the weather improves, we plan to do outdoor activities like we did in the fall,” said Willis. “If conditions improve and we can get approval from the university, we have some plans to do some small indoor events and leagues that will follow social distancing and limited group sizes.”

Students can log onto imleagues.com to find further information on Campus Recreation offerings.

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WSU Club Bowling Team Preparing For January Start

William Baptist

December 11, 2020

The Collegiate Club Bowling season is set to begin in January after being delayed in September due to concerns surrounding the coronavirus.

The Wright State University (WSU) bowling team is remaining optimistic about the upcoming season through these unprecedented circumstances.

“We have always been a team that deals with the situations and adapts to whatever is thrown at us. I have asked the players to stay positive and hope for the best, but that we will adjust to any changes,” said Head Coach Jeff Fleck.

Additional year of eligibility

The United States Bowling Congress (USBC) granted an additional year of eligibility to all student-athletes competing during the 2020-21 Collegiate season.

“With things changing daily across the country, we feel this decision provides the flexibility for the best possible student-athlete experience,” said International Bowling Campus Youth Development Managing Director Gary Brown.

This allows student-athletes to receive an extra year of eligibility regardless of if they compete in the season. This allows for flexibility if the season were to get cut short or cancelled.

“The extra year of eligibility I personally think is one of the best things USBC could have done for the collegiate sport this season,” said senior bowler Jonathan Ciero.

History of the WSU bowling team

Fleck is in his 15th season as head coach of the club bowling team and has a multitude of different accolades under him.

The women’s team won the Club National’s in 2015, along with six national qualifiers dating back to 2009. The men’s team was third in the Club National’s in 2014 and has had two national qualifiers since 2011.

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“I have enjoyed each and every moment. The many victories and accomplishments of the bowlers over the years has been amazing. I feel in a small part that I have contributed to their success as both a bowler and a person,” said Fleck.

Excitement surrounding the season

Collegiate sports are experiencing issues due to the coronavirus, and the health and safety of the student-athletes is at the forefront of how the USBC will proceed with the season.

The season could potentially be in jeopardy if the situation continues to worsen, but as of now they are moving forward with the January start date, and players are happy about the decision.

“I am super excited for this upcoming season and I am excited to experience what college bowling is all about. We have an amazing team program so I know we can do great things,” said freshman bowler Alexandra Drsek.

The bowling team was originally informed in August that the season would be delayed. After the USBC approved the Jan. 1 start date, the bowling team was eager to get the season underway.

“I personally am beyond excited to get the season going again and compete. I think we can have a solid team that builds into one of the best club teams out there,” said Ciero.

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