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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

PROUDLY SERVING OUR CAMPUS SINCE 1925

'We did it, Joe!'

Biden sworn in as 46th president

Joseph R. Biden Jr., was sworn in as the nation's 46th President of the United States Wednesday, Jan. 20, on the steps of the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

The inauguration was different than ever before, because pro-Trump rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol while lawmakers were certifying the electoral college results on Jan. 6. About 25,000 National Guard troops were deployed on Wednesday.

Biden and his vice president, Kamala Harris, were sworn in amidst unprecedented political and public health crises. In his first speech as president, Biden asked for a moment of silence for the 400,000 Americans who have died from COVID-19.

"This is America's day, this is democracy's day," Biden said. "A day of history and hope, of renewal and resolve."



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Duquesne students gather in the Student Union's NiteSpot on Jan. 20 to watch the inauguration of Joseph R. Biden Jr. as president of the United States. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were sworn in Wednesday on the steps of the Capitol, following a historic election.

Duquesne sponsors panel discussing Capitol riot

KATIA FAROUN &
CARISSA HASLAM
the duquesne duke

The violent attack on the Capitol on Jan. 6 left Americans wondering how such an incident could have occurred in the U.S. and what it means for the future of the country's democracy. On Monday evening, local activists, scholars and concerned citizens were given the opportunity to answer these questions during a Duquesne-sponsored webinar over Zoom.

The event, titled "Capitol Crimes: Protests, Policing and the Future of American Democracy," opened discussion about the events contributing to the violent mob and the systems that allowed for the execution of a successful attack on what was previously considered one of the country's most secure and protected buildings.

The webinar was moderated by Duquesne psychology professor Daniel Burston, and panelists included Duquesne sociology professor Nor-



KATIA FAROUN / FEATURES EDITOR

From top left to bottom right: Duquesne professor Norman Conti, Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh CEO Lauren Bairnsfather, Duquesne psychology professor Daniel Burston, and Elsinore Bennu Think Tank members Taiili Thompson and Thomas Farrell.

man Conti, Elsinore Bennu Think Tank members Taiili Thompson and Thomas Farrell and the Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh CEO Lauren

Bairnsfather.

Panelists were first presented with a series of questions regarding the forces that contributed to the insur-

rection, the repercussions of the event and what steps can be taken to prevent further acts of domestic terrorism.

The event, occurring on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, began with a video honoring King's legacy. Throughout the evening, the panelists considered how race contributed to the police response during the events of Jan. 6. Discussion centered on the differences between law enforcement's response to the white Capitol rioters and the many Black Americans involved in Black Lives Matter protests over the summer.

Conti, a former officer who studies the sociology of policing, noted the level of threat perceived by officers was seemingly much lower, despite the magnitude of the crowd and the presence of weapons. He blamed this response on a criminal justice system that misdirects its attention toward slow-income and minority individuals, naming them as the threats, rather than individuals in power.

"We live in a nation where the purpose of our criminal justice system is to get the majority of the population

see PANEL—page 2

POLICE briefs

Welcome back! We haven't been on campus in over a month but somehow there was still crime to report. Let's leave the bad behavior in 2020, OK?

On Nov. 24, two Duquesne students were located on the 6th floor balcony of the student union. One was found to be in possession of a small amount of marijuana. The student who possessed the marijuana had a prior incident involving marijuana with DUPS. The student was issued a non-traffic citation for disorderly conduct, and both were arrested.

COVID-19 NUMBERS

According to the Duquesne COVID-19 mini-site, daily reporting of positive cases, suspected cases, isolation and quarantine status will resume after Jan. 21.

Last semester, Duquesne reported 295 confirmed cases of COVID-19 cumulative over time, and 55 suspected cases of COVID-19 cumulative over time. 140 students were isolated on campus over time, and there were 257 students quarantined on campus over time.

As of Jan. 15, 10 employees are currently under isolation for COVID-19.

A small Joke

What falls in the winter, but never gets hurt?
Snow.

EmailTips

We want your input!

The Duke's news section would love to hear from you about stories that you want to see in print. Know a talented professor or accomplished student? See something on campus that just doesn't make sense? You can send your tips and story ideas to News Editor Colleen Hammond at hammondc@duq.edu.

New year, new mascot for Duq athletics

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

Like the month of March, the Duquesne Duke mascot is bringing the semester in like a lion.

Literally.

On Jan. 13, the Duquesne Athletic department unveiled a new design for the Duquesne Duke mascot. Similar in style with the new Duquesne "D" athletics logo, the design consists of a lion's face donning a top hat.

"I think the new mascot is a little out of the blue, considering we just took up the new 'D' for athletics," said Natalie St. Hill, a freshman music education major. "Personally, I think it's silly that our Duquesne Duke is now a lion ... with a top hat, nonetheless."

The reimagination of the mascot was considered to be "phase two" of Duquesne Athletics' rebranding in May 2019. The first phase — giving the Duquesne "D"



COURTESY DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

a facelift, along with a new font style — kicked off a multi-year process to completely rebrand Duquesne Athletics.

James Bacon, the associate design director for Changeup, Inc., noted Duquesne's academic seal as inspiration for the new design, in a video explaining the design on social media.

"We were looking at what other assets Duquesne utilized in the rest of their rebranding, and we didn't get any further than the academic seal," Bacon said. "You're already leveraging, to some extent, a lion, so why not make that our Duke?"

The uniqueness of the Duke design, according to Changeup, Inc. Executive Creative Director Ryan Brazelton, sets Duquesne's mascot apart from other lion mascots. Changeup, Inc. headed the rebranding of Duquesne Athletics.

"There are a lot of lions out there ... but if we look back to the Duke itself, there were no lions with a top hat," Brazelton said in the video. "That is really cool, unique and weird, in like the best sort of way."

James Madison University — also the Dukes — use a "duke dog" as their mascot. The Dukes from Virginia are represented by a bulldog wearing a crown.

"I like the new mascot, but it looks kind of weird with the top hat," said junior pharmacy student Sam Connolly.

Connolly noted that the mascot is another addition to the list of cat mascots for Pennsylvania colleges. The University of Pittsburgh, for example, has the Panthers, Penn State has the Nittany Lions and Villanova University is represented by the Wildcats.

The Duke's eyes may look familiar to Pittsburgh sports fans. The hypocycloids (diamond shapes) are used in the Steelers' recognizable logo.

"That is such a strong and powerful connector back to Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh athletic programs," Bacon said.

In a May 2019 press release from Duquesne Athletics unveiling the new "D," Athletic Director Dave Harper said that "it was a priority of ours to incorporate key university and Pittsburgh elements into our new visuals."

Insurrection topic of virtual panel

PANEL — from page 1

looking at the poor — being afraid of the poor, seeing the poor as a threat and a source of harm, rather than looking at where the greater harms come from people with more power."

As a Black man and returning citizen, Thompson affirmed this discrepancy, stating that had the rioters been of a different race, the results would have been much more violent.

"If that was a group of us storming the Capitol ... a lot of people would've felt like their lives would've been in danger and we would've been gunned down on the steps," Thompson said.

A statistic shared by Farrell reaffirmed Thompson's concerns, in which the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project found that police were twice as likely to break up Black Lives Matter protests than Stop the Steal protests in 2020.

The panelists also considered the participation of white supremacists and other extremist groups — including conspiracy organizations such as Qanon — during the riot. Bairnsfather argued that social media gives extremists a platform to spread their views, and that isolation due to the pandemic only encouraged the online presence of extremism.

The Holocaust Center of Pittsburgh, which co-sponsored the event, is a nonpartisan organization, but sees a connection between anti-Semitism and the hate-filled ideologies that were expressed during the riot.

"Anti-Semitism is the core of white nationalism," Bairnsfather said. "... Racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, et cetera — all these forms of hate are linked inextricably."

In considering the forces that led to the violence, Farrell discussed the shared sense of loss experienced by antisemites, white supremacists and other extremists. He noted that the sense of loss led to feelings of resentment, which were encouraged throughout the Trump presidency.

"President Trump, in many ways, is responsible for what happened on Jan. 6," Farrell said. "He stoked this feeling of white resentment and loss of white privilege."

Regarding steps that should be taken in response to the Capitol attack, the panelists echoed statements about the importance of engaging in conversations with people of different beliefs. They encouraged individuals to exit the echo chamber and be open to holding difficult conversations.

The discussion also focused on the need to revisit American Reconstruction and fulfill the promise of freedom for Black Americans that was broken by President Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Panelists additionally expressed the reassurance they find in younger generations, noting the ongoing importance of education and the need for continued reform in American schools.

Despite widespread concern surrounding the attack on the Capitol, panelists shared their hope for the future of the nation and the prosperity of core American values.

"We can't surrender our commitment to factual truth, to historical truth and especially our commitment to quality racial justice and human rights," Farrell said.

Duq uses Everlywell COVID-19 tests

ZOE STRATOS
staff writer

For the past few weeks, emails have been flooding student inboxes with the same sender: Everlywell. In these emails, the company has been asking students to return their Everlywell testing kits before arriving on campus for the spring semester; and more importantly, Everlywell has become a pivotal role in providing safety for Duquesne's students and other students across the nation.

Although used for COVID-19 testing at Duquesne and other universities, Everlywell has been around much longer with various kinds of testing kits. In 2017, Everlywell CEO Julia Cheek took her product to the popular ABC show, Shark Tank, and ended up making a deal with one of the sharks.

On the show, she explained that her mail-order kits allow for lab testing "to be simple, convenient and useful for you." Ranging from STD tests to food sensitivity tests, Everlywell has it all — and COVID-19 testing was recently added to the list.

"The university's Health and Safety Task Force learned about Everlywell from its work [and] researching what other colleges and universities were doing for testing," said Gabriel Welsch, a spokesperson for the university. "Everlywell is a nationally known and respected provider of at-home medical and health testing kits for a variety of purposes."

Everlywell's COVID-19 testing kit is an FDA-authorized self-testing method that provides lab results in a matter of days. Testing done at Duquesne prior to winter break was highly successful, according to Welsch, with a majority coming back

negative. The hope is that this round of testing yields similar results.

"I enjoyed the Everlywell self-testing method because I could do it from home and it was so simple," said junior Rose Le Ber. "The instructions were simple and the video they provided made it even easier. I took my test on Jan. 13 and got my results on Jan. 14; it was so quick."

And quick is exactly what Duquesne and other universities are looking for during the pandemic. Everlywell's return time ranges from 24 to 72 hours.

"The other most common approach is to have students move back and test while remaining quarantined in rooms for 10 days," said Welsch. "Because of Duquesne's active clinical students in health professions and science environments, the fact that Division I athletics is playing, and other factors, such a quarantine for all students would not have been possible. This mode was the more effective approach."

This more effective approach, poses issues such as compliance and logistics, but Duquesne is prepared to protect the safety of its students and faculty upon arrival and throughout the spring semester, according to Welsch.

"For those resident students who did not receive an Everlywell test in time — or could not, in the case of international students — Duquesne created a few backup options, including rapid tests upon arrival, so that students with negative results could still proceed with moving in and attending classes," Welsch said. "Because the university is operating in hybrid mode again this semester,

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THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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"We must accept
finite disappoint-
ment but never
lose infinite hope"
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

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our thoughts. | us yours.

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The Duquesne Duke is the student-written, student-managed newspaper of Duquesne University. It is published every Thursday during the academic year except during semester breaks and holidays, and prior to final exams. The Staff Editorial is based upon the opinions of the editors of *The Duke* and does not necessarily reflect the views of the students, faculty, administration, student government or the University publications board. Op-ed columns do not reflect the opinions of *The Duke*, but rather are the sole opinions of the columnists themselves.

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Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer's name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to *The Duke* office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduquduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The editors reserve the right to edit any and all submitted copies. All letters must be verified before being published.

Corrections/clarifications

Readers should report any story or photo error to *The Duke*. All legitimate errors will be corrected in print the following edition.

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Vaccine is a glimmer of hope for Americans

With the spring semester commencing around America, college students will once again face a great deal of uncertainty as COVID-19 continues to sweep across the nation. One thing is certain though: the new semester will look very similar to this past fall.

Institutions of higher learning are making it abundantly clear that the same stringent policies and social distancing guidelines are still in place to reduce the likelihood of a campus-wide outbreak.

From temperature checks and daily health screens, to limited capacity in classrooms and mandatory mask wearing, students can expect the full arsenal of preventative measures to be on display.

Although the normal day-to-day routine is seemingly unchanged for the foreseeable future, what has changed is the outlook of the coronavirus pandemic.

With the recent development of two effective vaccines, and more on the way, the evidence continues to grow that there is indeed a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. However, I'm not entirely convinced said light is not an approaching train.

As of Wednesday morning, there were 96.2 million cases worldwide and 2.06 million deaths. The U.S. alone accounted for 25% and 20%, respectively.

These statistics admittedly do not paint a rosy picture, and in fact, contradict my previous claim that COVID-19 has improved. But bear with me for a few moments as we dive a little deeper and explore some recent trends that supports that better times are coming.

As reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-

vention (CDC), hospitalization and mortality rates have both steadily declined since the end of December. According to data obtained from The Covid Tracking Project, hospitalizations due to the coronavirus are down more than 10% from last week in 19 states with modest declines in 28 other states.

What's more, analysts from Bernstein Research project 200 million Americans will be vac-



NOAH WILBUR
opinions editor

inated by May 31. In addition, Dr. Anthony Fauci stated in December that if the vaccination campaign goes according to plan, herd immunity is possible by the end of summer.

Most importantly, President Joe Biden recently announced a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package. A considerable portion of the stimulus is to be allocated to state and local governments for the purpose of increasing testing and vaccination efforts — another indication that we can potentially shift the tide in coming months.

This abundant optimism should of course be taken with a grain of salt as there is still a long and windy road ahead before reaching a full recovery.

Nevertheless, it is rather encouraging to know progress is being made. Albeit slowly.

With the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines already being distributed and other vaccines likely to be approved by the FDA in the near future, we are undoubtedly on the right path to achieving herd immunity and returning to some sort of normalcy — define "normal" however you see fit.

A growing number of Americans hold the belief that since the vaccine was "rushed," then it cannot be safe. This fear is warranted, and I am by no means suggesting to drop whatever you're doing at this moment to sign-up for the earliest possible vaccination.

That being said, the cold hard truth is we will never wake up from this terrible dream without at least 75% to 85% of the population vaccinated.

This is the first step to complete inoculation. I believe those who are worried about receiving the vaccine should do the necessary research. What you find just might surprise you.

For now, it appears the light at the end of the tunnel is indeed hope on the horizon rather than a 6,000 pound locomotive moving at full speed.

Without full cooperation from all Americans, it is nearly certain the pandemic will spiral out of control yet again — especially with new strains already emerging around the globe.

Let's avoid this potential disaster by continuing to wear masks in public, adhering to the guidelines set in place by local governments, and maintaining proper social distancing in the necessary settings.

If we join together and each do our part, I am optimistic we can overcome this mighty obstacle and begin down the path of a brighter future.

STAFF EDITORIAL

It's on us to have a safe semester

On Jan. 13, all Duquesne students received an email from President Gormley confirming that the semester will begin as scheduled on Jan. 21.

Also on Jan. 13, 670 new positive cases of COVID-19 were reported in Allegheny County, and 7,960 cases across Pennsylvania.

So, the "margin of error," per se, this semester is more narrow than last — and Duquesne recognizes this to an extent. In Gormley's email, he writes that all students who plan to be on campus must present proof of a negative test, surveillance testing every two weeks and updates to living, studying and dining spaces, for example.

But there is still room for error. That's where we, as students, come in.

The burden of responsibility relies on us to have a safe semester on the Bluff. Colleges nationwide postponed the beginning of their semesters to online only — and some colleges are going virtual for the whole term — but Duquesne is allowing us to return.

Duquesne had a decision to make, and they gave students and staff the option to return to campus with numbers and hospitalizations on the rise. Even with the cautious optimism surrounding Duquesne's efforts, it is our responsibility to keep our campus community safe.

Obviously, this semester will pose many challenges, but we've got to remain diligent and stop the spread of COVID-19. We've heard it a million times already, but hand-washing, mask-wearing and social distancing are integral to another successful semester.

We've also got to learn from our mistakes, too. No matter how tempting it is, we cannot be gathering in large groups, and the university has to be transparent regarding information with COVID-19 and campus.

It's riding on us as students to make smart and safe choices because of Duquesne's decision. While it's great that the university believes that we can operate in-person, they are taking a risk doing so, and they have to be prepared for the possible consequences of being open.

If cases start to rise on campus, the university has to take responsibility and cannot use students as a scapegoat by placing all the blame on them.

In the fall, Duquesne dodged horror stories of other universities who botched their COVID-19 response — and that was due to the diligence of students and staff on campus.

So now this column is asking us to do what we did in the fall, but better. The vaccine is on its way, but it's clear that the pandemic will last well into 2021.

Donald Trump is deserving of impeachment after inciting riots

ALYSE KAMINSKI
staff columnist

In 2020, I was so sick of hearing people say that everything that went wrong would just disappear in 2021. I heard countless times, “2021 will not be as crazy!” And while I am hopeful that 2021 will be a better year, I have the sense to admit that 2020 wasn’t some fluke. The insanity that was 2020 was the combination of many faults in our country.

On Jan. 6, when domestic terrorists stormed the Capitol in a strange effort to reverse the results of the election, I can’t say I was really surprised. And it definitely did not come as a surprise to me when President Trump — former president once this article comes out — was impeached for in-



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

The capitol building was stormed on Jan. 6

citing that riot.

The despicable actions the insurrectionists committed on that day will go down in history. It is my sincere hope that they all

are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. And I really hope that all of the speakers at the rally which led up to the breaching of our Capitol are as well. Especially Donald Trump.

The day of the impeachment debate in the House, I, for some reason unbeknownst to me, watched the entirety of the spectacle. And it was exactly that — a spectacle. I fully believe it was the Republicans, who are sworn to protect our Constitution and our government, who made it that way. Sure, call me biased because I am a Democrat, but for hours I sat through conservatives making logically unsound arguments for reasons I cannot fathom.

I think my favorite — actually, my least favorite — argument came from freshman Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene from Georgia. Her argument was much like the rest of her Republican colleagues, but what stood out to me was her mask, which read “CENSORED.” It seems ironic that a woman freely speaking into a microphone for her whole country to see would believe she is censored. Obviously, this is a nod to the banning of President Trump from almost all social media platforms, but it came off so whiny.

An argument I heard throughout the afternoon was that no one who participated in the riots over the summer against police brutality was being punished the way Trump is. Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz made remarks about buildings being burned over the summer. Unfortunately for Gaetz, this



PUBLIC DOMAIN IMAGE COUTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi signing the articles, of Trump’s second impeachment.

argument makes no sense and has absolutely nothing to do with what happened at the Capitol. Trump did not incite those protests.

But if Gaetz and others like him want to play that game, let’s go. What did Trump think was going to happen this summer when he tweeted, “When the looting starts the shooting starts?” He knew that would not make any of the protests stop. He knew he was fear mongering. He knew he was making a racist nod toward a saying in the 1960s.

To draw a comparison between the domestic terrorists at the Capitol and those protesting so Black people stop being killed by the police is racist. Those who stormed the Capitol were not protesting for anything productive. Black Lives Matter protests are angry at a system that puts Black Americans

in danger every single day. They are not the same.

Aside from the bogus whining about private companies “censoring” Trump and ridiculous claims about Black Lives Matter, the Republican arguments failed in many other ways, including acknowledging how awful what happened was and that someone should be held responsible. It is almost as if they were at a debate to acknowledge that what happened was awful. It was almost as if they were debating this because they have the power to hold one of the perpetrators, the president, accountable.

But they were too afraid. They’re scared of Trump, and they used a false fear of further dividing the nation through impeachment to hide behind their actual fear. In other words, they remain spineless.

A word on a Missouri senator’s concerns about Pennsylvania

TROY SMAJDA
staff columnist

I jotted down the skeleton of this opinion piece with a little bit too much opinion on the night of Jan. 6, right after Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri gave his speech on the Senate floor (nearly at midnight by that point) objecting to the counting of legal electoral votes.

I don’t consider myself a political person, but the day-long, Hindenburg-esque coverage of a domestic terrorist mob attacking our Capitol was something I could not look away from. I can count on my fingers the number of times my father and I have discussed politics in my 22 years of life, but what happened that day simply felt too historically important for us not to watch.

I was so proud as an American to find out that our Congress members decided to reconvene in the wake of the attack to continue to count these legal electoral votes. That night there were many patriotic speeches in defense of America and its democracy, especially on the Senate floor, after terrorists invaded that floor just hours earlier.

Amazingly, even after so many unfruitful allegations and lawsuits, culminating in domestic terrorists attempting to kidnap his colleagues with zip ties, Sen. Haw-

ley still had the unashamed gall to take the Senate floor and assert that there was fraud in the 2020 election.

There has been such a cacophony of weak arguments about “fraud” that I attempted to ignore him, but around midnight on a day that will go down in infamy because of the lies he and others perpetrated, he attempted to bolster his vacuous argument by invoking my home state of Pennsylvania, claiming it is a state he “has been focused on.”

He then went on to say (and I’m paraphrasing because of his circumlocution) that Pennsylvania passed a law in 2019 allowing mail-in ballots, and that for 100 years, the commonwealth didn’t allow mail-in ballots. That was it. Sen. Hawley sat protected in an undisclosed location planning his remarks all Jan. 6, while terrorists stormed the Capitol, and all he could come up with as the lynchpin for his fraud argument was: Pennsylvania passed a law.

My father and I audibly jeered Senator Hawley from my hometown of Johnstown, a place he definitely does not know exists. Yet he stood on the Senate floor that night parading as some savior of my state’s democracy. “We’re good,” my dad said out loud to him. I agreed.

Who is Sen. Hawley to get involved with the affairs of my state?

I have never once heard his outcries about our heartbreaking opioid epidemic.

I have never heard him raise awareness about how the city I was born in was ranked in 2020 as the poorest small city in Pennsylvania after being an economic hub just years earlier.

I have never seen him tweet about how my county and many others in Pennsylvania are considered “financially distressed” under Act 47 (a law I’m sure he overlooked during his “focus” on Pennsylvania).

And I certainly did not hear his outrage over the Steelers being forced to play three games in 12 days, resulting in a torn ACL for Bud Dupree and an end to their best shot at a Super Bowl in years. And he starkly overlooked Philadelphia’s quarterback woes and instead attempted to insult their record voter turnout by claiming it was somehow fraudulent.

Sure, that is an attempt to sound more level-headed than I felt about his remarks around midnight on Jan. 6, but the sentiment is the same: My state is full of complexities, full of beautiful countryside, full of beautiful people, and full of many pressing issues, and I promise none of them involve our ability to pass laws or use the USPS to send mail.

It seems like Sen. Hawley is just worried about Pennsylvania when



COURTESY OF HAWLEY.SENATE.GOV

Sen. Josh Hawley objected to the results of Pennsylvania’s electoral vote.

it is convenient for him. It seems like he is implying the officials Pennsylvanians elected are incompetent, and cannot pass laws correctly. That is not the case: Senators Bob Casey and Pat Toomey showed that on the Senate floor when they denied these facile allegations of voter fraud in Pennsylvania. They, and we, do not need Sen. Hawley’s help, concern, or two cents.

Look at any recent election map and you will see Pennsyl-

vania may be divided politically, but that is nothing my home state cannot overcome.

We will overcome this divide together so that the remarks of the great Dr. King who we celebrated Monday will come true: “Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania.” We let freedom ring in November and we will continue to, and we do not need some senator from Missouri telling us how to do it.

Caravan demands release of ex-Black Panther from prison

**KATIA FAROUN &
CARISSA HASLAM**
the duquesne duke

Seventy-seven years old. Suffering from stage 4 cancer. Diagnosed with COVID-19.

Russell “Maroon” Shoatz’s story sounds tragically familiar in a pandemic-stricken world, where millions of already vulnerable individuals have found themselves battling a contagious respiratory virus on top of underlying health conditions. But an additional fact makes his situation unique: Shoatz is in prison, where he’s been for the past 49 years.

Because of his age and worsening health, supporters are speaking up about Shoatz’s situation and, alongside health experts, are calling on Gov. Tom Wolf to release him immediately from prison. On Monday — Martin Luther King Jr. Day — members of the Free Maroon Now Coalition and other supporters gathered in Pittsburgh as part of a caravan throughout the city to raise awareness.



KATIA FAROUN / FEATURES EDITOR
etta cetera discusses how to respond to possible police presence.



KATIA FAROUN / FEATURES EDITOR
Drivers placed signs on their vehicles.

Carrying flags and signs that communicated support for Maroon and advocated for various types of criminal justice reform, vehicles stretched more than a block in length and traveled throughout Pittsburgh’s neighborhoods, starting on East Carson Street in the South Side and ending near Freedom Corner in the Hill District. The caravan, which replaced a demonstration that was expected to take place on the steps of the state capitol in Harrisburg but was canceled due to recent threats of violence following the events of Jan. 6, accompanied a sister caravan taking place at the same time in Harlem, New York.

Caravan participants included Pittsburgh residents and members of various local advocacy organizations, in addition to members of the Free Maroon Now Coalition.

One participant, who goes by the name Man-e, believes that Shoatz’s release is overdue — and not just because of his health.

“I believe in the release of all political prisoners,” Man-e said. “He’s in prison because of politics ... and I believe he should be free.”

Shoatz is a former Black Panther and member of the Black Liberation Army. In 1970, a Philadelphia police station was attacked after a Black youth was killed by one of the city’s officers. An officer died during the retaliatory attack, and Shoatz was one of five men charged with murder in connection to the event. He was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

Since his arrest, Shoatz has been transferred to multiple prisons across the country and experienced repeated periods of solitary confinement — the longest being 22 consecutive years. He’s currently incarcerated in SCI Dallas, and after being transferred to SCI Fayette in Pennsylvania for cancer treatment, Shoatz tested positive for COVID-19 in November.

Shoatz’s positive test postponed a scheduled surgery to remove a rectal tumor. His underlying health conditions and COVID diagnosis have encouraged physicians, professors and organizations to join in with activists calling for Shoatz’s immediate release, citing inhumane treatment of COVID-19 positive inmates at SCI Fayette and a life-threatening delay to his cancer treatment.

In a statement to Gov. Tom Wolf, Lt. Gov. John Fetterman and Attorney General Josh Shapiro, 145 human rights and criminal justice organizations argue that because of his age and compromised health, Shoatz no longer poses a threat to society.

“The time is now to do what’s right, and to model for the rest of



KATIA FAROUN / FEATURES EDITOR
The caravan traveled from South Side through the city before ending in the Hill District.

the country what a rational and ethical response to the impact of COVID-19 on society’s most vulnerable and marginalized populations looks like,” the statement says.

While Shoatz’s release has been encouraged by supporters for years, his COVID diagnosis reignited their movement, according to etta cetera, a local activist and friend of Shoatz who organized the caravan.

“His being a political prisoner was injustice enough, motivating enough,” etta said. “... His COVID diagnosis galvanized everyone to come together.”

Supporters were encouraged by Shoatz’s release from solitary confinement in 2014. His case gathered international attention, and Shoatz reached a settlement of \$99,000 af-

ter arguing his conditions in solitary confinement were consistent with “cruel and unusual punishment.”

Now that he has returned to the general population, activists are motivated to push for Shoatz’s unconditional release from prison.

“We are spitting ourselves and our voices and our spirit in this long river of justice,” etta said. “Every voice matters. Every action matters.”



MLK remembered as ‘drum major for justice’ at prayer breakfast

KELLEN STEPLER
editor-in-chief

In a 1968 eulogy titled “Drum Major Instinct,” Martin Luther King Jr. said he wanted to be remembered as a drum major for justice, a drum major for peace and a drum major for righteousness.

King’s legacy, and that sermon, were the focus of the 22nd Annual Homer S. Brown division (HSBD) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast and Program Monday morning. The virtual event was hosted by the Allegheny County Bar Association (ACBA).

“Dr. King said that everyone could be a drum major, as long as they had a heart full of grace, a soul generated by love and lived a life of service to others,” said Regina Wilson, the HSBD chair of the ACBA. “He encouraged everyone to be a drum major.”

The program, typically held at Ebenezer Baptist Church in the Hill District, went virtual this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

“2020 illuminated the continual need for drum majors, as de-



KELLEN STEPLER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
A screenshot from the event shows Tracey McCants Lewis accepting her award.

finied by Dr. King,” Wilson said. “As we reflect on Dr. King’s legacy, we are challenged as drum majors to be of service to others, with a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love.”

Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald said that King’s spirit lives on, and that we “as a community, as a nation, as a people, live up to the spirit of what Dr. King represented.”

Tracey McCants Lewis, a Duquesne law professor and lo-

cal attorney, was the recipient of the 2021 Drum Major for Justice award. Lewis is also the deputy general counsel and director of human resources for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

“The arc of history is long, but it bends toward justice,” Fitzgerald said. “Tracey McCants Lewis is one of those folks who is bending that arc towards justice.”

Elizabeth Hughes, the president of the ACBA, said that the award is presented annually to

an individual or organization recognizing their contributions in perpetuating the conviction of Dr. King to make justice, equality and opportunity a reality for all people.

“From the first day we met, Tracey’s dedication to improving the lives of others around her was apparent,” Hughes said. “Her dedication to justice is woven into the very fabric of who she is.”

Lewis, Hughes said, is “unwavering in her dedication to these principle foundations of justice.”

“The pursuit of justice requires the promotion of fairness through action rooted in truth,” Hughes said. “Tracey does not just speak, she acts.”

Lewis dedicated the award to her mother, who she said “was the epitome of service.”

“She was a nurse, and she taught my sister and me how to be servant leaders,” Lewis said.

King, she said, was a true servant leader.

“He worked to serve others, to bring about racial and economic justice for all, in our nation as well as in the world,” Lewis said.

Hughes said that anyone who knows Lewis knows that she nev-

er shies away from a challenge, and “handles ignorance or injustice with the strength and grace that few possess.”

“In these uncertain times, it is even more important that we have individuals like Tracey; those with integrity, honor, and who show up to bolster the pillars of justice, and who make everyone around them do better,” Hughes said.

Lewis said she was humbled to receive the award, and was excited to be added to the list of the other recipients of the award.



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH
The annual prayer breakfast honored Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy.

Dukes come back, capture crucial victory behind Baker's 19

ADAM LINDNER
sports editor

Keith Dambrot, now in his fourth year on The Bluff, entered this season with high expectations and a wealth of talent on his roster. Tabbed to finish fifth in a crowded Atlantic 10, Dambrot's Dukes seemed poised to reach heights not seen at Duquesne for decades.

Six conference games later, his team was reeling.

Following the departures of two starting guards (Sincere Carry and Lamar Norman Jr.), plus the absence of a third in Maceo Austin — who stepped away from the team for a brief period of time for personal reasons — Duquesne's identity was in flux, leaving Dambrot in a precarious position. The Dukes, once imagined to be among the A-10's premier contenders, were suddenly 2-4 in conference play, without 60% of their original starting lineup and struggling to put the ball in the basket.

That didn't change when Duquesne took the court on Wednesday night, in search of its first victory since Jan. 9 and — probably more importantly — a galvaniz-

ing effort against a quality team to hang its hat on. Since the departures of Carry and Norman — who both announced their intentions to transfer elsewhere — on Jan. 5 and Jan. 9, respectively, the Dukes have struggled offensively as Dambrot has searched for new rotations. The team managed only one win in its three contests since Carry's exit, beating lowly Fordham before falling to Dayton and St. Bonaventure.

On Wednesday evening, as Duquesne played host to Rhode Island at its makeshift La Roche University home, it appeared as if more of the same was in store for the Dukes. Well, for the first 20 minutes, at least.

Rhode Island, boasting wins over two A-10 top dogs in St. Bonaventure and VCU, led by as many as 17 in the game's first half en route to a commanding halftime advantage. The Rams' Makhel Mitchell dominated the offensive boards while Duquesne's Mike Hughes sat on the bench with early foul trouble, and the Dukes struggled to score, at one point enduring a 1-for-14 shooting stretch.

Dambrot's Duquesne teams



COURTESY OF ST. BONAVENTURE ATHLETICS VIA DUQUESNE ATHLETICS
Duquesne forward Chad Baker contests a dunk attempt by St. Bonaventure's Osunniyi on Jan. 15; the Dukes fell to the Bonnies, 62-48. After SBU's Jan. 23 game against Saint Louis was postponed, the Atlantic 10 announced that Duquesne will host St. Bonaventure on Saturday, Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. at La Roche University's Kerr Fitness Center. The matchup will be the 121st between the two programs.

have made a habit of roaring back in the second half of games to steal victories — the Dukes' 71-69 triumph on Wednesday night marked the 14th time a Dambrot-led Duquesne team came back from a double-digit deficit to win — but it had yet to be done this season. Until it was.

Hughes re-emerged from the bench to add 11 second-half points and freshman Chad Baker turned in a career-best performance, propelling Duquesne to a quality — and immensely important — win.

Baker — who shot 5-for-5 from 3-point range en route to a 19-point, five-assist, three-steal performance — appeared to be emotional during timeouts, wiping his eyes with a towel at times. After the final buzzer, Baker broke into tears as he returned to the sideline, where he was embraced by teammates.

In his post-game presser, Baker told reporters that one of his high school friends — also named Chad — died on Wednesday. Dambrot said Baker received the news just as the team was arriving at La Roche for the game.

"This whole game, I was very emotional," Baker said. "That was just going through my head, and [I] just played this game for him. The rest of the season's going to be for you, Chad."

"That's where relationships become important," Dambrot said. "I said, 'Look, man, you gotta play this game for your friend now. There's nothing you can do other than play it in honor of him.' [Baker] played well. He's capable."

Baker was more than capable on Wednesday, serving as Duquesne's only source of offense for large portions of time. He delivered a memorable performance, emphatically staking claim to his newfound spot in the starting lineup.

It gave Duquesne, in desperate need of something — *anything* — positive, a glimpse of hope. *Hey, maybe we'll be alright. Maybe we can still compete. Maybe we can do this.*

It resulted in a win that could potentially salvage Duquesne's wayward season.

"We aren't dead yet," Dambrot said following the win. "Not yet."

Several Duquesne sports teams set to return to action during spring season

Following an autumn mostly without sports on The Bluff, various teams on campus are preparing to compete in abbreviated seasons during the spring semester.

Duquesne's football team will play a four-game, conference-only schedule beginning on March 5-7, and the men's soccer team is set to return to action on March 13 at St. Bonaventure. The women's volleyball team — which typically competes during the winter — will begin its season Feb. 5 at Davidson.

The vast majority of Duquesne teams did not compete during the fall months due to decisions made by their leagues (Duquesne is a member institution of the Atlantic 10; all teams belong to the A-10 with the exception of football and women's bowling, which compete in the Northeast Conference).

Further details regarding Duquesne teams' return to competition are expected to be announced soon.

The Dukes' football squad, which last played in a Nov. 23, 2019, loss against Central Connecticut State, is eligible to schedule non-conference games prior to the beginning of its NEC slate on March 5-7. League games will be played on Sunday nights or mid-week, with the NEC title game set for April 16 or 17.

— Adam Lindner



ADAM LINDNER / SPORTS EDITOR

Men's Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	St. Bonaventure	5-1	7-1	W5	1/23 at Duquesne
2.	UMass	4-1	5-3	W3	1/24 vs. Davidson
3.	Richmond	3-1	9-3	W2	1/23 vs. La Salle
4.	Davidson	5-2	9-5	W3	1/24 at UMass
5.	Dayton	4-2	8-3	W3	1/23 at VCU
6.	VCU	3-2	10-4	L1	1/23 vs. Dayton
7.	Rhode Island	4-4	7-8	L1	TBD
8.	George Mason	3-4	7-6	W1	1/23 at Saint Joseph's
9.	Duquesne	3-4	4-5	W1	1/23 vs. St. Bonaventure
10.	La Salle	3-4	6-8	W1	1/23 at Richmond
11.	G. Washington	2-3	3-9	L2	1/27 at George Mason
12.	Fordham	1-6	1-6	L4	TBD
13.	Saint Joseph's	0-6	1-11	L3	1/23 vs. George Mason
14.	(25) Saint Louis	0-0	7-1	W1	1/26 vs. Dayton

Women's Basketball A-10 Standings

Rank	Team	Conf.	Overall	Streak	Next
1.	Dayton	5-0	6-1	W5	1/31 at St. Bonaventure
2.	UMass	5-1	9-2	W3	1/24 at Saint Louis
3.	VCU	4-1	6-6	L1	1/24 vs. Richmond
4.	Fordham	4-2	7-3	W1	1/22 vs. St. Bonaventure
5.	Rhode Island	4-2	4-5	W2	1/22 at Saint Louis
6.	Richmond	3-2	6-4	L1	1/24 at VCU
7.	Davidson	3-3	6-6	L3	1/22 vs. Duquesne
8.	Saint Joseph's	1-1	3-1	L1	1/22 vs. George Mason
9.	La Salle	2-4	6-7	W1	1/22 vs. G. Washington
10.	G. Washington	1-4	4-7	W1	1/22 at La Salle
11.	St. Bonaventure	1-4	2-6	W1	1/22 at Fordham
12.	Duquesne	1-4	2-7	L6	1/22 at Davidson
13.	Saint Louis	0-1	2-1	L1	1/22 vs. Rhode Island
14.	George Mason	0-5	3-9	L5	1/22 at Saint Joseph's

WandaVision brings new dynamic to Marvel

GRIFFIN SENDEK
multimedia editor

WandaVision is a breath of fresh air unlike anything Marvel Studios has produced in over a decade.

Elizabeth Olsen and Paul Bettany reprise their roles of Wanda Maximoff (Scarlet Witch) and Vision, kicking off the first of many Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) television shows slated for release exclusively on Disney+.

Though the characters were both introduced back in 2015 with the release of *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, both Wanda and Vision were only ever relegated to the side to make room for the other Avengers.

Granting Wanda and Vision their own show finally gives the chance to explore these complex characters in ways that the other films unfortunately never could.

The story opens with newlyweds Wanda and Vision, a powerful witch and a sentient robot, moving into their suburban home to begin a new life together, just like any happy old-style sitcom couple.

WandaVision doesn't use the sitcom style as a one-off gag, but the en-

tirety of these two episodes preside within that genre of television. From the costumes and sets, the black and white, the rhythm of the dialogue, the style of jokes, physical comedy and hijinks filled plotlines down to the cinematography — WandaVision isn't just replicating sitcoms, but is one itself.

As a superpowered sitcom, the show works incredibly well. Olsen and Bettany are able to fill the housewife and working man archetypes beautifully, without losing the spark that made their original characters so delightful. Another standout is Kathryn Hahn in the role of Agnes, the friendly yet nosy neighbor who completely steals the show every second she's on-screen.

A criticism often weighted at the MCU is its poorly incorporated use of humor. Particularly present in the Avengers titles but present throughout the MCU are the quieter, high stakes moments which are undercut with short quips and cheap gags that only make for a tide of tonal inconsistencies.

In WandaVision, with a complete genre shift, the stakes are far lower giving air for the humor to breathe



COURTESY OF DISNEY

The first few episodes of WandaVision closely resemble classic, 50s sitcoms.

and effectively land in this world of the sitcom, laugh track and all.

The lighter demeanor and jovial setting work in the show's favor to elegantly contrast the brief, yet powerful moments of seriousness, revealing there is something deeply wrong in this perfect, cookie-cutter world.

These episodes of WandaVision clearly take heavy inspiration from 1998's *Pleasantville*, a story of two teenagers trapped in a classic sitcom whose interactions introduce color to the black and white world.

The two episodes out on Disney+ are fun and cheerful, taking beloved characters and throwing them in a setting we'd never thought we'd see. However, it's the subtle hints of something more, the questions it's both asking and begging to be answered as well as how it connects to the rest of MCU that make these seemingly innocuous sitcom storylines into something incredibly compelling.

The biggest question the show has yet to answer is how Vision, after his tragic death in *Avengers: Infinity War*, is still alive. Or if he is truly alive at all. I'm certain, the answer

will come as more is revealed in the following weeks.

Those arriving hoping to watch a little bit of action, not a ridiculous expectation for a superhero show won't be finding any in these first two episodes. For that reason, I could see many being underwhelmed or even disappointed by what's on display in this premier. I could see children who have zero basis for 50s television being particularly confused.

To those disappointed by this first taste, I say wait and see. Marvel took a bit of a risk and tried something different and they should be applauded for that. These episodes were very much a slow burn, and the rest of the show will likely be as well; however, I have hope that it will all very much be worth the wait.

From what these initial episodes show, it's difficult to guess exactly where WandaVision will go, but the hints of something sinister behind the scenes have me hooked, and awaiting the next episode.

Episode three of WandaVision will be available on Friday, Jan. 22, only on Disney+.



COURTESY OF DISNEY

Olsen and Bettany spark romance in Marvel's newest TV series on Disney+.

New single "Driver's License" takes the road for success

CAPRI SCARCELLI
A&E editor

She may drive alone past your street, but she's in good company globally when it comes to bad breakups.

Well known as the lead character "Nini" on Disney+'s *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* (HSMTMTS), 17-year-old actress and singer-songwriter Olivia Rodrigo debuted her hit single "Driver's License," steering its way to the top of the charts at no. 1 on Billboard Hot 100.

Released Jan. 8, the new pop phenomenon drove records: Rodrigo's "Driver's License" became the most-streamed song by a female artist at 76.1 million, earning this honor on its very first day.

TikTok helped to popularize Rodrigo's song by making it a trending sound. Additionally, Taylor Swift gave a shout out to Rodrigo

on her Instagram, saying, "that's my baby and I'm really proud."

Because it gained so much attention on social media, listeners began to conspire on what the song actually means.

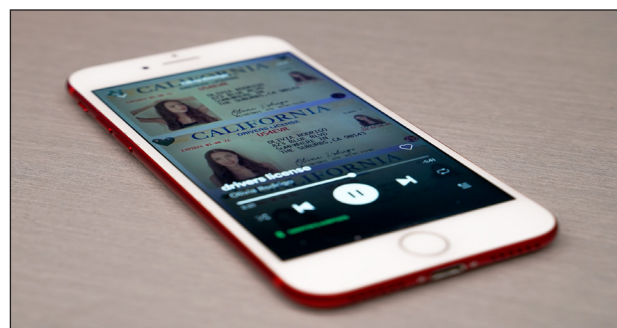
The title of the song is unassuming and innocent, but the lyrics go more in-depth about this coming-of-age experience, involving what is presumed to be Olivia's love life.

HSMTMTS co-star Joshua Bassett, who was her love interest in the show, is rumored to have had an off-screen relationship with Rodrigo as well. Throughout "Driver's License," there are a few allusions to this in the lyrics, as she sings, "Cause you didn't mean what you wrote in that song about me," which could be about the HSMTMTS song "Just for a Moment" — one they wrote together.

Likewise, Rodrigo swoons,

"And you're probably with that blonde girl who always made me doubt/ she's so much older than me, she's everything I'm insecure about," which points to Disney actress and singer Sabrina Carpenter, who Bassett has been spotted with a few times since October. Thus, fans of the show and of Rodrigo have speculated over the timeline of Rodrigo and Bassett's presumed breakup — and whether or not Carpenter and Bassett are official.

The heartfelt, mature lyricism matched with a feeling of nostalgia truly expanded Rodrigo's target audience. Pop music, so often rooted in young adult themes, is so rarely relatable to those in their late-teens. Rodrigo, a teenager herself, was able to craft a ballad that resonates with the emotions of thousands of teenagers in ways that pre-teen pop hasn't in years. With "Driver's



GRIFFIN SENDEK, MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Disney star Olivia Rodrigo makes strides in her song-writing with her first single.

License," however, a simple milestone such as getting your license along with a little bit of romance can go a long way in making everyone's story feel heard.

Rodrigo's style reflects the ever-changing era of pop. Inspired by artists such as Lorde, Swift and more, Rodrigo pushes her vocals to the limit, all the while perfectly juxtaposing with a simple, yet effective melody that swells into the chorus. The song adds layers quite smoothly throughout,

a steady progression that makes one feel as though they are living the experience of the song itself.

After seeing her name break records worldwide, Rodrigo said on Instagram, "Never in my wildest dreams did I expect this. Thank [yo]u guys so much for listening. I can't believe this is real life."

Though no date has been officially announced, fans can expect a complete EP from Rodrigo as soon as she gets the green light to release.

week's events

COVID-19 Mask Distribution
Jan. 21 @ 9 a.m.

Stop by the 3rd floor of the Student Union for a free mask provided by the Center for Student Involvement.

Martin Tried to Tell Us:
Confronting King as the Nation
Chooses Chaos over
Community
Jan. 22 @ 12:30-2 p.m.

Join the Office of Diversity and Inclusion for an address dedicated to the late Dr. King. RVSP through CampusLink.

upcoming releases

Our Friend
Friday, Jan. 22

A drama/comedy about a man who puts his own needs aside for the sake of his loved ones.

The White Tiger
Friday, Jan. 22

Actress Priyanka Chopra, wife to musician Nick Jonas, stars in the movie adaptation of author Aravind Adiga's best-selling novel about wealth, greed and crime, set in India.

capri's complaints

My COVID-19 Concerns

As much as I don't want to consistently prove to Duquesne University that I do not, in fact, have Coronavirus, I find it quite odd that move-in was almost too easy.

When I showed the front desk my negative COVID test provided by Everlywell, it only took a quick glance to get me inside the residence halls.

Did my mom have to show proof of a negative? No. Did they ever ask me again to show my negative test? Nope.

Although this made my life easier, I know that the virus will slowly trickle its way back on campus if we aren't keeping a close eye on it.

For a better semester... stay negative.

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TESTS — from page 2

those commuter students who do not receive test results in time for classes will not be able to attend in person but will be able to attend virtually. Those students will also follow quarantine protocols until their test results arrive.”

One of the major changes to Duquesne’s efforts to combat COVID-19 is the addition of surveillance testing for students and faculty every two weeks, according to Welsch. Like the Everlywell tests, it will be provided by the University at no cost and will take place in the Genesius Theater on campus.

Along with revamped testing and safety protocols put in place for returning students, the university also expects students to take the Protect Duquesne Pledge, wear masks and social distance, remain with PODS, perform daily self screenings and follow other CDC guidelines just as they did during the fall semester.

“A lot of the guidelines put in place work really well, but some I feel can be re-worked. I didn’t understand why only one person could sit at a table in the library and couldn’t sit with people we were roommates with,” Le Ber said. “But students should be smart about who they’re hanging out with

and where they’re going. Just wear a mask and use common sense.”

Although seemingly far off, the university is already beginning plans for Easter break — but nothing concrete yet.

“Easter break will remain in place in order to provide students a well-deserved break during the semester and so the campus can observe this important Holy Day for Catholics and others. However, it is highly likely the university will still have travel restrictions in place at that time and it recommends that students avoid booking travel for that period,” Welsch said.



GRIFFIN SENDEK / MULTIMEDIA EDITOR



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THIS WEEK'S WEATHER

Thursday

45°



Breezy and
milder

Friday

35°



A snow
shower;
breezy,
colder

Saturday

28°



Clouds and
sun with a
flurry

Sunday

35°



Some sun.
then turning
cloudy

Monday

42°



Cloudy with
a chance of
snow

Tuesday

34°



Colder with
flurries

Wednesday

33°



Times of
clouds and
sun

Courtesy of AccuWeather