



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL CLEMENS  
The Gonzaga women's basketball team brought home the West Coast Conference Tournament championship with a buzzer-beater by Jill Townsend, giving them the 43-42 win over BYU.

# Bulldog buzzer beater beats BYU

By SAMANTHA DIMAIO

Goosebumps. That's the only way to describe this game. The Gonzaga women's basketball team defeated Brigham Young University 43-42 for the WCC championship title in Las Vegas on Tuesday afternoon. It was a strenuous battle from the

beginning with half a dozen GU players struck by gastroenteritis the night before the game. Senior forward Lee Anne Wirth was unable to play any minutes because of the illness. Senior guard Jill Townsend, who went through two bags of IV fluid before the game, fought through 18 minutes of playing time.

Redshirt senior guard Cierra Walker managed to play 15 minutes in the same condition as Townsend. Senior forward Jenn Wirth was able to play 33 minutes and sophomore guards Kayleigh and Kaylynne Truong played 31 and 29 minutes respectively. With the majority of GU's starters

completely out of the game or sluggishly playing it out, freshman forward Yvonne Ejim was the player who stepped up to make a significant impact in the 21 minutes she played. She scored a total of 13 points and came out with 9 rebounds,

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# GU serves as distribution site for COVID-19 vaccine

By ALEXANDER PREVOST

CHAS Health partnered with Gonzaga University to hold an on-campus COVID-19 vaccination distribution site from Feb. 26 through March 2 and an additional day on March 6. Originally, they partnered with the Washington State Department of Health to provide a mass vaccination site. This came about after the Spokane Regional Health District reached out to CHAS to help manage that project. After spending several weeks assisting, the Department of Health took over the reigns of the Spokane Arena project, and CHAS began to focus its vaccination efforts back onto their patients. Shortly following this, however, the government shipped roughly 7,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine to CHAS. Seeing an opportunity to collaborate, it reached out to GU. "We literally got a call from the vice president of operations saying that they had been given thousands of doses of the Moderna vaccine from the federal government," said Charlita Shelton, the COVID-19 compliance officer and special consultant to GU President Thayne McCulloh. "Unexpectedly, they'd received thousands of doses of the vaccine, and they were going to be moving out of the arena. Another group was moving in, and so they needed some type of infrastructure to administer the vaccine." This and a number of GU alumni employees at

CHAS led to a vaccination site on campus. The vaccination site follows current Washington state policy. People who are either above the age of 65, health care workers or above age 50 and live in a multigenerational household, are some of the people eligible for a dose of the Moderna inoculant. Child care workers and school district employees were also recently added to the eligibility list. "We did receive a larger supply than we had anticipated," CHAS Chief Administrative Officer Kelley Charvet said. "Initially we were going to open it up to CHAS established patients. However, because of the amount of supply we received, we were able to open it up to many more community members." Those who wanted to partake in the clinic had to check their eligibility status on the Department of Health's website. If they were eligible, they could register for an appointment on CHAS' website. "They're escorted back into a vaccination area where they complete the vaccination process, and then they go to another secondary waiting area where they wait 15 minutes or so just to make sure there are no adverse reactions to the vaccine," Chavet said. "While they're waiting, there's an individual there that will help them schedule their second dose."

The original clinic length was designated to

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CHIANA MCINELLY, COURTESY OF GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

GU nursing students administered COVID-19 vaccines during the distribution session to eligible people.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GONZAGA UNIVERSITY DANCE MARATHON FACEBOOK  
Students dance the night away at the 2018 Zagathon dance marathon. This year, it will consist of COVID-19 adaptations such as pre-recorded videos.

# Zagathon gets into a new groove

By LILLIAN PIEL

Zagathon is going to look different this year, adapting to coronavirus restrictions to be a two-day event, taking place on March 19 and 20. Before coronavirus, Zagathon was an eight-hour dance marathon in the John J. Hemmingson ballroom, with the goal of raising funds and awareness for Sacred Heart Children's Hospital here in Spokane, said Grace Siemering, a junior public relations major and co-chair of Zagathon's morale squad this year.

According to Zagathon's website, 100% of the money raised by the event goes to Sacred Heart Children's Hospital. The funds will be used for machinery and programs at the hospital, Siemering said. "I think it's important because children's hospitals rely on other funds because a lot of the work done isn't covered by Medicaid or programs like that. So, they rely a lot on programs like Children's Miracle Network," Siemering said. "It's really important to make

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# University honored on Gonzaga Day

By SOFIA CHAVEZ

Since its inaugural celebration in 2013, Gonzaga Day has become one of the most highly anticipated events for members of the GU community to celebrate what it truly means to be a Zag. Starting as a celebration for the university on the 125th year of its founding, Gonzaga Day has previously included a series of interactive activities, performances, challenges and impactful service opportunities to foster school spirit across the dedicated members of the GU community. The initial event in 2013 featured live coverage from The Kennel to alumni across the world, and also marked the announcement of plans for the university's John J. Hemmingson Center, which was completed two years later in 2015. Its initial success led to the continuation

of the event as a way to honor the university (and its vast network of supporters) over the following seven years, with each year boasting a new and relevant theme. And while the last year has been particularly tough on both the GU community and the world as a whole, the unprecedented circumstances will not stop GU's Alumni Association from putting on the celebration in some capacity. In fact, in spite of the undoubtedly challenging obstacles brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the team is optimistic that the 2021 celebration will have a special and uniquely impactful significance on its audience. "As we thought about the theme, we thought about how this is still a challenging time for so many," said Kara Hertz, executive director of Alumni Relations. "Knowing that, we also were thinking about so much optimism and so much that is going well in the midst of this." Through considering the incredible resilience of the GU community and the inspiring success of both the men's and women's basketball teams, Hertz and her team decided that this year's theme would be "Celebrate

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# Street sweep: COVID-19 edition

After living in a global pandemic for a year, Zags reflect on how their lives have changed since March

By ARIELLE CLAYBORN

**The Gonzaga Bulletin (GB): What is something that has changed in your life for the better since COVID-19? For the worse?**

*Kathryn Grimes, junior:*

"I've had more time for myself and am not as stressed out. I feel a little lonely at times but that's about it."

*Anna Hochstein, sophomore:*

"I've had more time with my family."

*JJ Pringle, sophomore:*

"I've had more time with roommates."

*Rachel Phelan, sophomore:*

"Learning how to be creative. I don't need as much alone time as I thought."

*Mason Daoang, sophomore:*

"My overall health has changed. I've took it upon myself to be more active."

*Morgan Baricaua, sophomore:*

"I was able to help around the house with family and spend time with them."

*Ellie McConkey, sophomore:*

"I've had more family time and time to hang out at home. There's been more time to be creative, stuff like that."

*Caden Kim, sophomore:*

"It's been getting hard to adjust to roommates. It's like being at home and getting tired of family. It's the same thing."

*Cade Newell, senior:*

"I've grown closer to my housemates and spent more time with them."

*James Stevenson, senior:*

"I've had to be more intentional with how I reach out to people."

**GB: What was a plan you had going into this year that you've had to salvage or rethink?**

*Grimes:*

"I was supposed to go abroad. Now, I will hopefully get to go to Europe after graduation."

*Hochstein:*

"I've had to rethink going to basketball games. [She's salvaged that experience by] still being a part of the Kennel Club, watching games online, and knowing who

players are."

*Pringle:*

"I was supposed to study abroad. Talking about studying abroad all the time makes it sound more fun!"

*Phelan:*

"My roommates and I go do more adventurous things and are more creative without exposing ourselves."

*Daoang:*

"We weren't able to experience Luau season this year."

*Baricaua:*

"We weren't able to experience Luau season this year."

*Kim:*

"Working out is a different plan now. It's more outdoor and less weightlifting."

*Newell:*

"Canceling the WCC tournament in Vegas."

*Stevenson:*

"I was supposed to go and do the Pilgrimage hike in Spain this summer but cannot go anymore."

**GB: Are there any new traditions you've created because of COVID-19?**

*Grimes:*

"I have a lot of movie nights."

*Hochstein:*

"I'm a plant lady now."

*Pringle:*

"I've done more at home workouts."

*Phelan:*

"We've gotten into reading to fill the time."

*Daoang:*

"I've become more aware of myself and have started listening to podcasts."

*Baricaua:*

"Going on little walks and being outdoors."

*McConkey:*

"Doing puzzles, decorating with paintings, and more inside activities."

*Newell:*

"Playing pingpong all the time with weekly-ish tournaments."

*Stevenson:*



SOPHIE CROSBY IG: sophie\_\_crosby

**James Stevenson (left) and Cade Newell (right) speak to their experiences on how the pandemic has affected their year in quarantine.**

"In my house we do group dinners once a week."

**GB: What's an experience you wish you could recreate without COVID-19 restrictions?**

*Grimes:*

"I'd bring back silent disco."

*McConkey:*

"Being in the Kennel again and making more friends."

*Kim:*

"Campus life in general. Being able to

hang out with friends, going to class and traveling."

*Newell:*

"Seeing all my friends and sitting next to all of them at the big wooden tables in Hemm."

*Stevenson:*

"Doing intramural soccer and having normal sports."

Arielle Clayborn is a contributor.

## ZAGATHON

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sure that we're taking care of these kids and making sure they can have the life they deserve."

"The tentative plan for the Zagathon is an in-person event on Herak Lawn on March 19, consisting of stations for fundraising, showing what Zagathon is and the stories of the children they are helping through fundraising, which they call miracle kids. On March 20, there will be a virtual event and a thank you video," said Katie Bull, a senior nursing major and co-executive director of Zagathon.

Zagathon was started by former student Shelby Wells through Children's Miracle Network, and Wells is now the regional manager of the organization, Bull said. According to Zagathon's website, Children's Miracle Network is a nonprofit organization benefiting children's hospitals across North America, and is completely student-run.

As co-executive director, Bull's job is to facilitate the rest of Zagathon's executive board, run meetings and coordinate with the regional manager, hospital representatives and advisers. Although this year's Zagathon looks different, Bull said that doesn't change how rewarding it is, and she appreciates the virtual participation.

"It's fun, and completely stressful, and you know all of the work that you're doing, in that moment, that day, there's nothing else you can do and you get to enjoy it, and you get to dance and celebrate these miracle kids' lives who have been through so much," Bull said. "It's a reminder that all of the work you put in throughout the year is worth it because of those miracle kids that are standing in front of you."

Ryan Meza, a senior broadcasting major and co-chair of the morale squad along with Siemering, said he joined Zagathon his freshman year because he wanted to be part of something bigger than himself.

"I just fell in love with it the first time I went to the event just because you really see the community sense that Gonzaga has in the greater Spokane community, and I saw that very quickly my freshmen year," Meza said.

The morale squad, usually made of 40 to 50 people, raises money for Zagathon by planning and promoting fundraising events and performing a "morale dance" at Zagathon, Meza said.

"The morale squad co-chairs choreograph the morale dance, which is eight minutes long, and they teach



PHOTO COURTESY OF GONZAGA UNIVERSITY DANCE MARATHON FACEBOOK PAGE

**Zagathon is a long-standing tradition where students raise money for kids with cancer.**

everyone at Zagathon one minute of the dance for each hour of the event," Siemering said. This year, the morale dance is shortened to three minutes and will be filmed and shown at the event.

Last year, students involved with Zagathon went to Sacred Heart Hospital to visit the miracle kids and hand out stuffed animals. Meza said knowing that they have impacted the lives of the miracle kids and their families is very rewarding.

"I love meeting our miracle kids because you can put a face to the event and a face to the name of what you're doing it for," he said.

Students can get involved with Zagathon by applying for morale squad or the executive board, registering for Zagathon, fundraising on your own through Zagathon or posting on social media about it and supporting those who are involved in the event, said Zachary Dwyer, a junior communications studies major and the campus

relations chair for Zagathon this year.

For Dwyer, the most rewarding part of being involved with Zagathon has been helping the miracle kids and giving back to the community.

"I've always wanted to help others and give back in some positive way, and I think doing it on a college campus through dancing and through raising money is really fun and unique," Dwyer said.

The link to register for or donate to Zagathon can be found here: <https://events.dancemarathon.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.event&eventID=4130>.

Lillian Piel is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @lillian\_piel.



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# VACCINE

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start on Feb. 26 and go through March 2. However, due to the large amount of vaccines in stock, CHAS added an additional day on March 6.

They administered roughly 1,000 doses per day.

“We provided our own volunteers and, you know, of course, we’ve had students just on Saturday volunteer, but the entire community volunteered to be part of the effort,” Shelton said. “It took a group of 15 to 20 of us and different areas of the institution to put this together as quick as we have, and it was overwhelmingly successful.”

McCulloh emailed GU students before both rounds of the clinic to call for volunteers to work both morning and afternoon shifts. Nursing students from three different universities, including GU and Washington State University, also participated in the clinic.

“What we learned is, if you’ve been there and you have done the instructions, whether it’s registered folks, making sure they have the PPE, making sure that they’re signed in, then what we’re able to do is take other folks and, even manager levels at Gonzaga and say ‘Listen, we need your help. You know, we’d like you to come and shadow us,’” Shelton said. “This is what we do on a typical shift, and that’s what we’re able to do to sustain ourselves for eight days doing this.”

As it currently stands, the state of Washington has administered at least one dose of the vaccine to 17.9% of its population, according to NPR’s COVID-19 tracker. With infection rates on the decline, the light at the end of the tunnel is growing closer with each passing day.

“I think in the meantime, of course, we need to be diligent about continuing to do everything we can to stay safe for those who aren’t vaccinated yet,” Chavet said. “But certainly, hopefully, this is a time when we can look back on and go, ‘Wow, we learned a lot.’ I think we certainly learned that together we can do better. Together we can



CHIANA MCINNELLY, COURTESY OF GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

GU nursing student, Kira Twiggs, helps vaccinate people for CHAS Health in the Charlotte Y. Martin Centre.

do more.”

The CHAS mass vaccination clinic will begin again on March 26 to administer the second doses of Moderna COVID-19 vaccinations to those that scheduled appointments.

“If anyone can take away anything from this [it should be that] Gonzaga continues to live its mission,” Shelton

said. “It’s almost like, ‘You can talk the talk all you want, but can you walk the walk? Do you walk that walk?’ And I think, to a great degree, it proves Gonzaga walks the walk.”

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# BASKETBALL

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one of which led to the game-winning shot made by Townsend.

“I love the depth and I think it speaks to all of our players and what we can do if we’re clicking,” GU Head Coach Lisa Fortier said.

The Truong twins also made a huge impact on the outcome of this game. Kaylynne Truong scored eight points and Kayleigh Truong was the one to find Townsend off the sideline for the last shot.

“It wasn’t just the shot I hit; it was everything that happened before to get us in that position,” Townsend said. “It was a team effort, and it was incredible.”

The Zags were just two points away from winning the championship game with 10 seconds left on the clock. On BYU’s last possession, senior guard Paisley Harding, one of the star players, missed a crucial layup. Jenn Wirth got the defensive rebound, and the Zags called a timeout. Kayleigh Truong missed the next layup with just 2 seconds left in the game. Ejim

got the offensive rebound, which led to a jump ball given to GU — 1 second left and another timeout called. Only 0.6 of a second remained on the game clock. Kayleigh Truong passed the ball in bounds to Townsend who got a shot off right away and made the jumper. That was the only shot she made in the game, and it was the only one that mattered.

“We just had a lot of confidence that she would be right mentally and that was a shot that she could make in her sleep,” Fortier said.

Despite GU’s improved second-half performance, the first half was all BYU. The Zags trailed 13-22 by halftime as a result of their 17.2% FG shooting, while BYU was shooting 32.1%. GU wasn’t knocking down shots and had trouble taking care of the ball.

BYU scored six points off turnovers and had seven steals during that first half. On top of that, BYU’s defense was hindering. The Cougars were successful in staying tight on their marks, cutting off passing lanes and ultimately getting stops and making baskets on the other end.

“It wasn’t our prettiest game at all,”

Townsend said. “It wasn’t my prettiest game at all, but I think when the chips are down and we needed to rally, our team just showed incredible grit and toughness and resilience, and I couldn’t be more proud of them.”

One of the things that the Zags were successful in during the first half of the game was rebounding. They had 25 rebounds while BYU had 19. This is a skill they brought with them into the second half. Jenn Wirth in particular had eight rebounds by the end of the game. With so much pressure on her under the basket, she struggled to get a shot off but made up for it in rebounds.

GU’s main change during the second half of the game was its defense. The Zags went to a full-court press to limit BYU’s shot clock and get some stops. Their energy lifted, their effort improved, and they played with determination and intent. They went into that half not with a mindset of just getting through the game. They went into it with a fighter’s mentality. They ended up scoring 16 points in the last quarter to BYU’s six points.

“We were like, ‘Oh, we’re only down

nine and we’re shooting probably single digits percentage, like we can’t get any worse, and so this next half we’re going to get it done,” Townsend said. “And we found a way to get it done.”

Vegas has not been kind to the Zags over the past few years. This is the tournament where Townsend broke her leg, where the team lost the semifinals to the University of Portland with a last-second shot, where coach Fortier went through a tough loss of a family member and where crucial team members had gastroenteritis just before the championship game.

But, the Zags pulled through. The resilience, determination and heart of this team pushed them to come out on top of the WCC this year.

“Just really happy for our team,” Fortier said. “... and how we are resilient and tough and gritty and all things that say, ‘I’m a Zag, and I’m going to show you what that means if you don’t know.’”

Samantha DiMaio is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @dimαιο\_samantha.

# GU DAY

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Hope.” The mission behind this overarching topic is the desire to give the community the permission and encouragement to focus, even just for a day, on the good.

In this vein, a defining characteristic of this year’s celebration will be the inclusion of short videos (about 5-10 seconds in length) submitted by students, alumni, staff and members of the university’s Jesuit community in response to the prompt: “What are you celebrating, and what is bringing you hope?” The videos will be shared on social media and included in the event’s feature programming on the evening of March 11.

In addition to the compilation of community videos, the virtual event will feature an interview with famous GU alumni John Stockton (’84) and Laura Stockton (’19), as well as a subsequent interview with a surprise guest. All segments are available for those registered via live broadcast.

Those who registered were also able to submit written words of encouragement for student-athletes to be shared on-screen during the event in order to express appreciation and give thanks for the inspiration and hardwork of GU’s sports teams during such a trying time.

Additionally, Hertz and her team have worked to create the new Gonzaga Alumni & Friends app, a virtual program that allows those registered to follow along with the day’s events and to win prizes throughout the day.

Significantly, this year’s Gonzaga Day will also be the first to coincide with the Bay Area Trek event on March 11 and 12.

This event, sponsored by Alumni Relations and Career and Professional Development, is a two-day event available for student registration on GU’s ZagsIgnite platform.

“The idea of the Bay Area Trek is to give our students access to key employers, as well as alumni contacts in the Silicon Valley and San Francisco area,” said Erin Shields, director of alumni and employer engagement at GU.

While the program has taken place in-person during Spring Break over the past 13 years, this year’s programming will take place entirely virtual. Alumni working for companies such as Google, Facebook and Square will give Zoom presentations alongside key members and recruiters at their organization. Presentations will provide educational

information about the culture of their corporate workplace and suggest opportunities for interested students, while a subsequent networking social will allow students to develop meaningful connections with potential employers.

“It is all in the spirit of Gonzaga Day and giving back,” Shields said.

Gonzaga Day and the Bay Area Trek events, however, are not the only ways that the Alumni Association is working to foster school spirit and a sense of community this year.

Drew Rieder, GU’s director of regional chapters, has been working since last spring with his team of wide-ranging regional leaders to maintain Zag spirit in a time when in-person gatherings are not an option.

“It’s been a complicated year, and so we have had to continually shift gears since last March and really just try to figure out how to build community in a complex and trying time for Gonzaga, for the United States and for the world,” Rieder said.

These efforts have taken on many forms. In true “Zags-help-Zags” fashion, the chapters utilized online conferencing platforms like Zoom during the end of the 2020 spring semester to host a range of events from virtual meditation to the class of 2020 commencement.

As we moved into the 2020-2021 school year, Rieder and his team have utilized their connections with GU’s Kennel Club to create programs and events centered around serving and uniting the student body and alumni.

Rieder believes that hype around GU basketball, in particular, can be a focal point of hope. Alongside the efforts surrounding Gonzaga Day, the alumni association looks forward to a new series of virtual events surrounding the Zags. This will include pre-game events via Zoom, as well as utilization of the app Collyde, where Zag fans can chat, post pictures, exchange GIFs and answer trivia during games. All of these resources are offered via the GU alumni webpage.

“Everyone is excited to get back to more of the things we used to know, but until then we are trying to use the best virtual engagement that we can, and still connect in the community as Zags,” Rieder said.

Sofia Chavez is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @sofia\_chavez2.

Somewhere down the line you’re going to wish you had a special memento from your college years to remember all the good times life had to offer.

Devan

The designs are pretty edgy!

Marianne

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# COVID-versary: A year in reflection

The pandemic made me rethink a lot of things. The pandemic made everyone rethink a lot of things. What I didn't expect was to get engaged in the middle of a pandemic and plan my own wedding.

My boyfriend, Bradley, is in the Marines, and I can't live with him unless we're married, and because of this, we discussed the idea of getting married sooner than most couples do, but that was OK.

After Gonzaga sent us home last March for spring break, I shortly thereafter began to do research on things such as venues, colors, floral arrangements and most importantly, dresses.

Doing a long-distance relationship is hard enough in a normal world, but one ravaged by COVID that makes traveling dangerous and ten times harder makes doing long-distance almost impossible.

But not quite.

The pandemic did cause quite a few hurdles in between planning the wedding and the actual thing happening, however.

Bradley was supposed to visit me in Minnesota over Fourth of July so he could propose. Although scheduling an engagement isn't necessarily the most romantic thing, we were willing to sacrifice the spontaneity just for the sake of seeing each other.

National holidays are easier for him to get time off for, but unfortunately, Fourth of July was on a weekend last year, so he didn't get any additional time off. He couldn't visit even though we had been counting down the days since the beginning of June.



By TESS PICKAR

to get engaged even if it wasn't exactly what we were planning.

Fortunately, I was able to visit him in California at the end of August before the beginning of fall semester.

This made our engagement feel all the more real because we were able to have pictures taken of us on the beach with him on one knee, ring in hand. It was so surreal, and such a blessing to be able to see him in the midst of such hard times.

As time went on, however, things got harder.

COVID numbers got worse as the holidays got closer, and our wedding date was set for Dec. 19, 2020. Things were looking pretty bleak in September and October, so bleak that we ended up postponing the wedding.

I was crushed.

That night, however, he surprised me by proposing on FaceTime.

He had ordered the ring from a Minnesota jeweler, so my parents had the ring in their room for safekeeping. They came into my room, and my mom was holding the ring, and Bradley began his sincere proposal speech.

He truly made the best of a less-than-convenient situation. We still were able to get married.

The wedding of my dreams that my mom, fiancé and I had been planning since May was no longer going to happen. At the time the maximum number of guests was 25 people, and it was a ceremony only, no reception.

Ideally people only get married once, and I don't want our one wedding to be dampened by the effects of a pandemic. It's worth waiting, not only for my fiancé but for the wedding of our dreams.

If I were to tell myself that I'd be engaged at 19 and planning a wedding for barely six months after I wouldn't have believed it. With that said, I wouldn't change anything that has happened over the past year, even if we did have to postpone the wedding.

Ultimately, the most important takeaway I got is that long-distance relationships can work. They are not easy, I will genuinely admit that, but if you've found your person then in my mind, there's nothing bad enough or crazy enough that can stand in your way.

He's in California and I'm at GU for the time being, and our schedules couldn't be more different, but we're still together.

I never would have expected to achieve such milestones in the name of love during the pandemic, but they're the things that got me through.

*Tess Pickar is a staff writer.*

## Awards during the pandemic: Celebrities get to party while we stay at home

Aside from the fact that the Golden Globes were, in fact, a complete and utter flop, I can't shake a feeling of angst about the whole affair. Part of me loved the feeling of going back to normal, but on the other hand how come celebrities get to play dress-up while the public is told that one mask might not even be enough?

Don't get me wrong, I'm normally on board with anything that will distract me from the reality of the pandemic. Seeing the actors that we know and love, or hate, in outfits so gaudy that my eyes can't take it all in is definitely a way to remember life before COVID-19.

Watching the myriad of entries of the award show season was something that brought so many people together because it was like the pop culture Superbowl, where you could vote for your favorite actress, actor or film. Award shows give people a fun tie-in to the shows, songs,

plays and movies that they love.

The Golden Globes, remotely hosted by Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, tried to keep the spirit alive, despite being on opposite sides of the country. Unfortunately, this ended up feeling forced, fake and instead of being a distraction from our closed-off Zoom world, it highlighted the sad truth that what's "normal" is so very different now.

I may be wrong in using the small screen to escape, but when the storytelling magic that has been a beacon of hope throughout the pandemic starts to mirror the real world, it lacks the ability to transport viewers away from their couches and capture wonder.

This notion fostered a small sense of bitterness for the industry that had carried me through this pandemic. If the event is going to be dictated by a virus, then the whole thing should follow its



By DAWSON NEELY

rules. Why do these select people get to do photoshoots and earn awards while the rest of us have to maneuver countless public health mandates?

While, yes, the Golden Globes were hosted "Zoom-synchronously," the attitude of the red-carpet attendees was that of monarchs above their people, strutting like peacocks, without masks. The worship that the public donates to celebrities

places them up on pedestals, and this pedestal gives them the dangerous notion that they are above the rules.

If only the awards could be as they were, but seeing as they are not, the nominees ought to bear the responsibility to use their voices to push the public to following health guidelines, and for those who have, to not be hypocrites. The double standard that rests on the back of many audiences' desire for more content seems to go against the grain of modern culture.

America has always been a country that seeks to check the power of its upper class. In the film and television industry, this was brought to light lately with the lack of racial parity in the awards' recipients.

If that injustice can be challenged, then why not fight the imbalance in rule-following between easily recognized stars and the average citizen. After all,

money and fame do not excuse someone from laws, or grant them extra rights.

Now, that is a harsh lens to hold our most esteemed entertainers under, but the expiration date of COVID-19 isn't branded on the carton and the awards season is just kicking off.

The next two months hold some of the most important award shows of the year with the Grammys on March 14, the Screen Actors Guild awards on April 4 and the Oscars will be April 25. These mark the highest awards for musicians and actors. Hopefully they learn from the Golden Globes, and hopefully they reinstate the sense of wonder that can be achieved by a little box in a living room.

*Dawson Neely is a staff writer. Follow him on Twitter at: @DawsonNeely.*

## Letter to the Editor: Republicans going green

The Democratic victory in January's Georgia Senate runoffs should be a wake-up call for the entire Republican Party. The lack of interest by conservatives in addressing climate change is concerning not just for the climate's future, but for the future of the party as well.

I was in Georgia right before the election as part of a group of college students from Washington, California, Ohio, Tennessee and Florida, there to knock on doors and encourage Georgians to go to the polls and vote for Sens. David Perdue and Kelly Loeffler. Many voters I encountered said that they refused to vote for Republicans because the party as a whole "doesn't believe in climate change."

According to the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, 70% of Georgians believe global warming is happening, and 65% believe global warming will harm future generations. And, according to The Conservation Coalition's polling data from Georgia, 88% of voters ages 18 to 34 say climate is important to them when voting.

By neglecting to propose climate solutions for everyday Americans, Republicans missed an opportunity to recapture the state and the Senate. Considering the rapidly aging Republican voting bloc, and how young conservatives' concerns are often largely ignored at the state and national levels by elected officials, this is especially concerning. Republicans should take their defeat in Georgia as a learning opportunity—a chance to rearrange their platform in order to accommodate younger voters and think about the longevity of the party.

And it is not just Georgians who yearn for a solution to climate change. According to



By CAITLIN O'DELL

Gallup, 70% of Americans between the ages of 18 and 34 are worried a great deal about climate change — and over 50% believe that global warming will pose a serious threat in their lifetime.

The current lack of interest from the Republican Party in addressing this significant issue facing voters is concerning for the future of the party and of the country. Republicans need to create a united front against climate change.

While there are a number of Republicans who care about climate and have unique approaches, there is yet to be a comprehensive strategy from the top levels of the Republican Party. There is no perfect solution to climate change, but there are a number of Republicans who have realistic, free-market solutions to climate change.

For instance, some Republican members of Congress advocate for legislation favorable to the free markets and preserving the environment. The two are not mutually exclusive, and actually stand equally as conservative principles, relying on the markets to address the most pressing issues of the time.

For example, Rep. Peter Meijer's campaign website tackles the conservation question from an economic approach, arguing that it is more cost-effective to address climate today than try to

clean up tomorrow.

Rep. Dan Crenshaw's approach recognizes innovation in the energy industry is important to produce energy sources that are more environmentally friendly so the world can enjoy American exports of "cleaner and cheaper energy."

Some Republicans, misguidedly, believe that those who vote based on climate are an unwinnable Democratic stronghold. But this just isn't true. Young people, and especially young conservatives, are concerned about the planet's future. We consistently do our part to save the planet, ranging from organizing trash cleanups, to calling our representatives to advocate for important legislation pertaining to the environment.

Young people are passionate about the environment. Preserving our parks, oceans and forests is not a political issue, it is an issue that should speak to everyone. It is the responsibility of Republicans to listen if we want to win elections ever again. Republicans must understand that to young voters, conservation is the future of conservatism.

*Caitlin O'Dell is a sophomore political science student at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington and member of the American Conservation Coalition.*

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# Light at the end of the tunnel

Spokane concert venues are targeting a summer reopening, but is it realistic?

By RILEY FARMER

Amid all the uncertainty and chaos the COVID-19 pandemic has caused, the fate of Spokane's local concert venues has gone under the radar.

Spokane is home to over a dozen concert venues and all have felt the effects of the pandemic. Under Washington state's Phase 2 guidelines, the venues are only allowed to operate at 25% capacity or seat 200 people, whichever comes first.

Laura Sims, the Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center (MWPAC) director, admitted that plans to reopen the MWPAC are still up in the air, but she and the rest of the MWPAC staff are exploring virtual options to keep the public engaged.

"We have been having livestreamed events, but will wait until external visitor numbers will not be limited," Sims said.

Sims hopes the fall semester will bring a chance to reopen the MWPAC, but with COVID-19, she and her staff have little concrete knowledge on when the center will reopen.

A big part of why concert venues are hesitant to reopen is based on profit. Venues struggle to make a profit under current COVID-19 guidelines, which in turn makes it difficult to attract artists and acts.

"We are still uncertain about the fall, we can only have 216 out of 700 with social distancing people in concerts so can't break even," Sims said. "Myrtle Woldson has to follow Phase 2 educational guidelines. We haven't reached a halfway point as far as herd immunity goes."

In the meantime, the MWPAC is turning to cyberspace to connect with it's audience and though it is online, the acts and artists featured are still top notch. Sims and the MWPAC celebrated Black History Month through virtual concerts, connecting the MWPAC to the Spokane community.

"The Black History [Month] concert last month was livestreamed, but we are not making any money," Sims said. "We are also doing a virtual Greenroom where I introduce artists and we see if our audience wants them to come out."

Although the MWPAC is not making money, Sims noted that times were tough across the board because of COVID-19, not just for concert venues.

"People don't really want to pay to watch an event now,



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

Although Myrtle Woldson Performing Arts Center's plans for reopening are unknown, they still hold virtual performances.

so we made a conscious decision to make Greenroom free," Sims said.

Sims said that the MWPAC hopes to open for business at the start of the fall 2021 semester, but admitted it may take until spring to fully reopen. She isn't sure what the first act to perform in front of a live audience will be.

"It's hard to figure out because we don't know who wants to go out and tour, figuring out contracts," Sims said. "Ideally, by next spring, three shows that were supposed to be scheduled, Arcis Saxophone Quartet, James Tormé and Neil Berg's 50 Years of Rock 'n' Roll, will be scheduled."

Sims said that it is important for them to be smart and safe

with how they reopen, as much as they would like to welcome people back with open arms.

"I trust in the decisions being made by the upper university hierarchy," Sims said.

Beyond the borders of Gonzaga's campus, other concert venues are more optimistic about reopening. Dawson Hoerner, one of the co-owners of the Big Dipper, a venue on Washington Street in downtown Spokane, said the Dipper had plans to open in June.

"We have to wait to see what Phase 3 looks like, the Big Dipper is a pretty small venue and we're hoping to get up to 50% capacity before it reopens," Hoerner said. "We have some shows tentatively booked for June."

Like the MWPAC, the Big Dipper has had to find new ways of connecting to customers while their doors are closed to the public.

"The Big Dipper thought about doing virtual concerts, but there's quite a lot of that going on," Hoerner said. "We had started a new phase of our business, Live at the Big Dipper, which we filmed, on Feb. 1, so right before the pandemic hit."

While venues want to reopen, it's important to stay cautious given the present environment.

"We took the lockdown seriously and we didn't see people for about six months," Hoerner said. "We're just starting to get together with local musicians, which won't be live. It won't bring in money but just keeps us in people's minds."

"I appreciate that people keep us in mind and respect that we take this seriously," Hoerner said. "Most people support caution, young musicians included. People have to step as a community and it's a shared sacrifice."

Hoerner said the best thing that people can do to help them is to share their content and keep the artists and the Big Dipper in mind.

To support the MWPAC, visit [www.gonzaga.edu/greenroom](http://www.gonzaga.edu/greenroom) to experience free Green Room Series, and to check out the Big Dipper's Live at the Big Dipper shows at [www.bigdipperevents.com](http://www.bigdipperevents.com).

Riley Farmer is a staff writer.

## Bulletin Cookbook week 4: Japanese Rice Balls

By MARISSA CONTER

It is a universal expectation that if you are a college student, you will spend your time being sick of the cafeteria food, and therefore resorting to microwaveable Kraft macaroni and cheese dinners three times a week. On your list of priorities, passing your classes is most likely first and making elaborate meals comes in dead last.

However, thanks to the power of the internet, thousands of aspiring chefs are posting quick and easy recipes that you can make the time for. You can put an end to going to bed hungry because you fell into a hole of watching food TikToks with this recipe from the app itself. To see the original TikTok of this recipe, check out

user @ballehurns.

These crispy rice balls are a spin on the classic Japanese dish, onigiri. Onigiri is made from white rice formed into triangular shapes, with a filling of salmon, tuna and many more options. This version is a little simpler, and is perfectly manageable for any skill level.

Japanese Rice Balls (serves 1-2 people)

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ cups white rice (leftover takeout rice works great for this)
- 1 tsp vinegar
- ½ tsp Everything but the Bagel seasoning, only available at Trader Joe's (or seasoning of your choice).
- ¼ cup shredded cucumber
- ¼ cup

shredded carrot

Heaping spoonful of cream cheese

Protein: choose between salmon, tuna or tofu

Steps:

In one bowl, add the vinegar to the white rice. Then, sprinkle on the seasoning and mix.

In another bowl, add the shredded cucumber, shredded carrots, cream cheese and protein of your choice. Mix them together to create your filling.

Grab some plastic wrap, and spread an even layer of rice onto the wrap. Add about

1 tsp of filling to the center.

Then, grab the plastic wrap and squeeze the rice mixture into a ball.

You can stop here, or you can pan fry them for 2-3 minutes on each side.

Serve with your favorite dipping sauce and enjoy.

These take only about 10-15 minutes to make, and are perfect for any meal or snack at any time of the day.

Marissa Conter is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter: @marissaconter.

Universal Crossword

Edited by David Steinberg March 14, 2021

ACROSS

1 Walk leisurely

6 Bathroom fixtures

10 Possible sib for a sis

13 Response to "Am not!"

14 Medium's deck

15 Years and years

16 Sellers' inspector? (unscramble letters 5 to 9 in this answer)

19 Ctrl- Del

20 H.S. exam

21 Classic Ford cars, for short

22 Dishonest person

23 Financial liability

24 Family court decree (3 to 7)

28 Defense policy grp.

31 Minor adjustment

32 Astros, on scoreboards

33 Men ("Who Let the Dogs Out" group)

34 Stouts and porters

35 Bite down

37 Basic shape for a toy train track

38 "Chicago" actor Richard

39 Nomad who threatened Rome

40 "I'm here to help"

41 Trough spot

42 Place to get a date ... but not to bring one (6 to 10)

45 Dead set (on)

46 Large Australian birds

47 Cream-filled pastry

50 Boy in "The Kite Runner"

51 Burglarize

54 "The Thinker," for one (6 to 10)

57 Vehicle that may be articulated

58 Perfume compound

59 "Fear of Flying" author Jong

60 China collection

61 Poker type

62 Iraqi money

DOWN

1 Goya's "The Clothed"

2 Like some traditions

3 Religious branch

4 Lawyer's title, briefly

5 "I don't have a preference"

6 Diplomatic skill

7 Online address

8 Turned on, as a computer

9 Short and thick

10 "Cold one"

11 One way or another?

12 Burden

14 Bygone Russian leaders

17 Hairy twin in Genesis

18 Watch the baby

22 Rental document

23 Gloom's partner

24 Fawns' fathers

25 Little bird that hoots

26 Mistrusting

27 Flip-flop

28 Belly feature

29 Former

52-Down attraction

30 Name hidden in "scale back"

33 Anjou alternatives

35 Violin part that touches your face

36 Pursue game

40 Took by force

42 Takes by force

43 Madagascar primate

44 Name that's a sour fruit backward

45 Prohibition

47 Slowly recedes

48 Heavy metal's

49 Extremely confused

50 Got a perfect score on

51 Devastation

52 Killer whale

53 Word after "polar" or "teddy"

55 WW precursors?

56 Prefix with "angle"

3/4

Cryptic Clues by Ed Sessa

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12
13						14						15	
16						17					18		
19				20						21			
				22					23				
24	25	26					27				28	29	30
31							32				33		
34							35	36			37		
38							39				40		
41						42				43	44		
						45				46			
47	48	49					50				51	52	53
54							55				56		
57							58				59		
60							61				62		

Shriners Hospitals for Children®

Gonzaga First Year Fundraiser for LOVE to support Shriners Hospital For Children in Spokane

March 16 - 23rd

The Fundraise for LOVE initiative is an opportunity for us to work together to make a positive impact and support the lives of families and kids in our Spokane community! Here is the link to the webpage:

<https://donate.lovetotherescue.org/GUfirstyearfundraiser>

REuse duce cycle

UNIVERSAL Sudoku Puzzle

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

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Complete the grid so every row, column and 3 x 3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Today's puzzle solution

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



# It's cookie, not COVID-19, time

By KATE SULLIVAN

Girl Scout cookies have faithfully brought joy to Americans for over 100 years. Despite its longevity, this time-honored tradition has not come without its setbacks. During the Depression Era, the business was scaled nationally to overcome economic hardships. In the 1940s, war-related shortages of sugar, flour and butter caused Girl Scouts to sell their first calendars to make ends meet.

The nuanced challenges of COVID-19 present new hurdles to overcome, but perhaps what has sustained the Girl Scouts through hardships are the tenacious, pioneering spirits of girls across America.

Like other organizations, COVID-19 has caused the Girl Scouts to dramatically change how they put on events and mentor members. In past years, local Girl Scout troops have made the John J. Hemmingson Rotunda a bustling site for cookie sales.

Thin Mints and Carmel deLites attract a cult-like following every spring, as the cookie sales alone comprise an \$800 million business. A lesser known fact, is that all of the net revenue from sales stays within the local area for sponsored programs, scholarships and other community-based events. This year, COVID-19 has tested not only cookie sales, but also the interpersonal connections between the kids who rely on Girl Scouts as a safe space.

"It's very hard for them," said Renee Smock, chief operating officer for the Girl Scouts of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho.

"Kids all over are feeling the same things, but the main thing Girl Scouts are missing is time together and sisterhood," Smock said.

Most troop meetings are held virtually. Girl Scouts USA partnered with Zoom to provide discounted service links, a collaboration referred to as 'gsZoom.'

This year, the organization has also been able to provide mental health training to troop leaders so they can best serve the needs of the children they mentor during the pandemic.

Cookie sales, which are the primary source of the organization's funding, were impacted heavily last spring. Last March, the start of the sale period for local troops and the beginning of quarantine coincided.

"Cookie sales did not happen for us last year," Smock said. "We learned a lot."



Due to COVID-19, Girl Scout cookies are being sold online at gsewni.org.

Now, the Girl Scouts are adopting a hybrid approach, with virtual meetings and a smattering of in-person events, such as a successful summer camp experience in Idaho. Staff are hopeful and impressed by the innovative spirit of scouts in the program, yet remain braced for the unexpected and have further developed their digital platform for cookie sales.

Additionally, Girl Scouts have the ability to send a personalized Amazon link to friends and family for direct sales, but customers can also shop using the ZIP code locator under the "find cookies" tab at any regional Girl Scouts website, or at girlscouts.org.

Some in-person sales will continue at select locations this spring, beginning March 26. Gonzaga students can expect to see

troops outside the Safeway on Mission and Hamilton Street, as well as several Albertson's and Walmart locations in town.

Smock believes the digital platform is here to stay and that it is a platform of commerce which will always be part of the world that Girl Scouts live in today. She also credits the pandemic with further enabling girls to hone their 21st century entrepreneurial skills.

One troop utilizing social media to bolster cookie sales are the Pathfinders, a grant-funded program providing membership to underserved girls from underserved areas at no cost to their families. On the Pathfinders Facebook page, users can click links which directly route them to the online shopping option.

The Pathfinders program serves many girls from the Northeast and West Central neighborhoods of Spokane who have had the opportunity to participate in several in-person activities, COVID-19 restrictions permitting.

Community Outreach Specialist Natalie Giles said that the Pathfinders program recently included a winter day camp with rock climbing, archery and other outdoor activities. She said that the organization has adopted a hybrid approach, but most activities are virtual rather than in person.

Several annual events remained highly successful when translated to an online format. One such event was "Spooky Science," a STEM-gear workshop with Halloween-themed science experiments to commemorate the birthday of Girl Scouts USA founder, Juliette Gordon Low.

"The best way to support Girl Scouts right now is to buy cookies," Giles said.

Besides supporting Girl Scouts by buying cookies, there are a variety of opportunities to volunteer with troops in Spokane. The organization encourages both long-term and one-time volunteer commitments, where guests can share hobbies, talents and interests with members at troop meetings.

Despite numerous setbacks, the Girl Scouts of America stand by their long-time motto to "Be prepared," and maintain high spirits during an era of great adversity.

To order Girl Scout cookies online, visit gsewni.org, or girlscouts.org. Using the ZIP code locator, both sides also provide information on when and where to find sellers in-person.

Kate Sullivan is a staff writer.

## Restaurants continue COVID-19 adjustments

By SYDNEY FLUKER

As restaurants face the brunt of COVID-19 restrictions, they must be ready to adapt at any moment. Luckily, it's becoming second nature for restaurants to adapt to the constantly fluctuating guidelines.

Current restrictions in Phase 2 of the Washington Roadmap to Recovery plan allow for indoor dining. However, no bar seating is permitted, parties (even from within the same household) have to be five or less and indoor capacity must be capped at 25%.

With all phases, there must be hand sanitizer available for staff and customers, everything on the table must be disinfected after every use and social distancing must be maintained between tables. Menus and condiments must be either single-use or sanitized after each use and restaurants must have their social-distance protocol posted for customers to see.

Abby Groh, a server at Twigs Bistro and Martini Bar, has worked there since before the pandemic and was one of three waitresses along with two managers that worked throughout the original shutdown.

"It's become a lot to handle but it's gotten more natural to just adjust and go with the flow," Groh said.

As a server, Groh's whole flow of waiting tables has changed. Servers must sanitize or wash their hands in between seeing each table, so they cannot go from one table immediately to the next. Servers also cannot serve food or drinks to multiple tables in the same round, making the wait time for getting food longer. Gloves are required for doing certain tasks such as rolling silverware and must be disposed of and changed after use.

"Being at only 25% capacity means a lot of unhappy customers were being turned away or put on a waitlist," Groh said.

Even with added restrictions, being open for indoor seating is still better than only being able to do takeout. While Twigs had a high takeout volume into the first Phase 2, surviving on solely takeout is near impossible for most dine-in restaurants.

"With takeout, we were never breaking even," Groh said.

As of now, if Washington returns to Phase 1, Twigs will close until dine-in is reintroduced, as it is impractical for them to stay open on solely takeout.

For Brian Dickmann, owner of Pizza Rita, the guidelines have not changed much for his business. Before the pandemic, Pizza Rita was 70% delivery, 25% takeout and about 5% dine in. For Dickmann, the harder part of the pandemic have been the scheduling issues that arise when an employee is exposed to COVID-19.

Washington has made adjustments to help restaurants survive the changing regulations, including relaxed liquor laws. Originally, liquor could not be sold as take-out and must be consumed within the restaurant's limits. Restaurants adjusted to this by selling martini kits and special mixes, but the demand was not the same. New laws now allow for drinks to be taken to-go, but they must be in closed containers and not consumed while driving.

Washington also offered a grant to help businesses bring employees back to work but it required that your employees be working an average of the same number of hours they were working pre-shutdown.

For Twigs, this meant bringing back around 30 servers with only 25% capacity.

"Trying to have that many people working meant that people would have one table at a time," Groh said.

Restaurants do not get alerted before a new phase is announced. For Twigs, the managers do a lot of listening to the news and staying caught up on Gov. Jay Inslee's updates. They also watched how counties around Spokane were moving and what regulations were placed on them when they reached certain case numbers.

"We find out at the same time as everyone else, with the information age we're in everyone hears things at the same time," Dickmann said. "And anyone who says they don't know definitely knows."

While it is imperative that restaurants follow guidelines, Dickmann reminds customers to be patient with restaurants. Keeping up with Gov. Inslee's updates is tough and they are adjusting as fast as they can.

"The thing about [right now] is everybody always says 'oh they did this wrong, they did that wrong' but it's their first pandemic," Dickmann said. "It's everyone's first pandemic, so just do what they tell you to do."

Sydney Fluker is a staff writer. Follow her on Twitter @sydneymfluker.

## BeYOUtiful Local Market spotlights local business

By NATALIE RIETH

Creating a new environment for Inland Northwest small business owners to share their talent and artistry within the Spokane community, Jessie Veselka, owner of BeYOUtiful Bath Bombs and More, recently kickstarted BeYOUtiful Local Market in NorthTown Mall. The market aims to transform the mall into a local atmosphere.

Veselka and her store have been a part of the NorthTown Mall community for four years now. When her youngest brother was diagnosed with cancer, Veselka and her family began to consider the ingredients of skin care products that they used on a day-to-day basis.

Originating in her home kitchen, BeYOUtiful Bath Bombs and More has a mission of creating high quality and healthy bath and body products, that customers of every income level can purchase.

After four years in the NorthTown Mall community, Veselka said that the NorthTown Mall has changed dramatically.

"We've seen it really full, and we've seen it now, where Macy's is closing," Veselka said. "So, we kind of have this mindset that we're not like the status quo."

Starting a market within NorthTown Mall has been a running idea for years now, Veselka said. The foundation of her bath and body business began at local Spokane craft shows and she said it only felt right to give back to the community of small businesses owners.

"We started at the markets, that's where business started,"

Veselka said. "It's like going back to the roots and remembering all the super cool people that you meet and all the great artistry that comes along with the market."

Currently the market features roughly 16 small businesses, ranging from crafters to gourmet peanut brittle and homemade chips and salsa. Some businesses participate weekly, while others join every other weekend or once a month. As the spring and summer seasons commence, BeYOUtiful Local Market hopes to welcome local farmers to the market.

"It gives people the incentive to come back and check it out every single weekend," Veselka said.

Todd Robinson, who co-owns Robinson Soft Brittle with his wife Pamela Robinson, said that when COVID-19 hit, event cancellations led to a difficult pivot in business.

"Going to these big events, of course, you can make a month income and have a good weekend," Todd said. "When all our events canceled, we thought: 'Well, okay, now how are we going to survive?'"

Todd said he is pleasantly surprised by the number of community members who come to BeYOUtiful Local market specifically to support local small businesses. He said that even he and Pamela have made the effort to reorient some of their own shopping to support local businesses at markets.

"It's an area where, even for us, even during the midst of a difficult time, we're still able to turn that around and help others in the community as well," Todd said.

Lesly Birkland, owner of Birkland Boutique is another BeYOUtiful Local Market participant.

"My experience has been phenomenal," Birkland said.

For Birkland, interacting with clientele in person has helped her test out new jewelry pieces, clothing and gifts to determine which items to include within her online collection. She said that participating in BeYOUtiful Local Market has been a huge learning experience as a business owner.

"I'm starting to know more about my clientele, who they are, what they think, what they like to wear and what's comfortable for them," Birkland said.

Birkland has also noticed ways the new market has uplifted both the small business and the supporting Spokane community.

"It almost makes people feel like it's normal again," Birkland said. "I've been able to see all of us vendors out there and conversing and the energy that flows through it is really exciting."

Most importantly, BeYOUtiful Local Market provides Spokane a new place of community, for both business owners and community members to support one another at one of the most difficult times.

BeYOUtiful Local Market is held every Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the second floor of the NorthTown Mall.

For more information follow BeYOUtiful Local Market on Instagram: @spokanesbeyoutifullocalmarket.

Natalie Rieth is an arts & entertainment editor. Follow her on Twitter: @natalie\_rieth.

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Session

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gonzaga.edu/SummerSession





# Gonzaga Athletics: We're still playing

The world of sports changed a year ago, but the thing that never changed was GU's perseverance through the pandemic

By VINCENT SAGLIMBENI

A year ago to the day, I was in Scottsdale, Arizona at Spring Training watching the San Francisco Giants play the Chicago Cubs. As a Giants fan myself, seeing my favorite baseball team lose in that fashion didn't make my day very nice, and it was something that I did not expect.

Little did I know that one of the most unexpected periods of time I've experienced was forming right under my nose.

Once I got back to the hotel my dad was staying at in Scottsdale, I had seen the news of Utah Jazz forward Rudy Gobert testing positive for COVID-19, followed by a plethora of cancellations in the world of sports the following day.

The NBA would shut down for the following four months, and what would hit hardest for Spokane citizens in particular was that the NCAA tournament would be canceled. This left the No. 1 ranked Gonzaga Bulldogs men's basketball team with no chance to compete for its first national championship in 2020. Spring and other winter sports championships were also canceled in response to the pandemic.

As a sophomore entering my first semester as a sports editor, March 12 was a very overwhelming day. I had recently finished covering GU men's basketball senior night a few weeks prior and just released a feature on star forward Drew Timme. I was preparing to cover the first two rounds of the men's tournament in Spokane, and when I got the news of the NCAA tournament being canceled, I couldn't think straight for the rest of the day. It was all happening so fast, and I didn't know how to react. Luckily, the upperclassmen I was working with helped me out and got everything settled, but looking back on it now, I had no idea that we would be in the position we are in today.

The following months would bring many more questions to the GU community pertaining to the athletics season. GU athletic director Mike Roth held a town hall webinar speaking on the future of GU athletics. At the time, much of the progression of the 2020 fall sports season would be predicated on what



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Gonzaga athletics, like men's and women's basketball, have been through many obstacles over the past year due to COVID-19.

would happen with the 2020 NCAA football season as well as universities' decisions to have face-to-face class in the fall semester. Like many were saying at the time, Roth said he was unsure what was going to happen in the near future.

"I've told people if I had a crystal ball right now, my crystal ball would look like a bowling ball," Roth said last April. "I can't see in it at all."

Three months later, the West Coast Conference (WCC) announced that no competition outside of the conference would occur prior to Sept. 24. Fall sports like men's and women's soccer, cross country and volleyball were all postponed, giving optimism that GU fall sports could still happen in the spring.

After Hoopfest was canceled on Aug. 12, that optimism for GU fall sports would fade away.

Aug. 18 was the day that all GU fall sports would be canceled due to concerns surrounding the pandemic. Teams were allowed to practice with each other in small groups, but nothing more would happen. Fall athletes took this stop to heart, as the hard work they had been putting in all offseason in preparation for the following season would be extended for another few months. However, these athletes understood what it would mean for them to have a season, and did so by taking as much precaution as they could.

"If we do joke around about [coronavirus], then who knows when we are going to be racing

again, and who knows if we're going to stay in school and go about our lives as we hope to in the future," GU redshirt senior cross country runner Peter Hogan said in August.

Roth assured the GU community that everything would be fine and that fall sports would once again come back to the GU campus. Roth instilled optimism in GU athletes and GU sports fans that Zags will be scoring baskets, scoring goals, hitting dingers and completing bumps, sets and spikes in the coming months.

"Gonzaga, both myself as athletic director and Dr. McCulloh as our president, are very supportive of this decision," Roth said in August. "As painful as it is for our student athletes, we believe strongly it is the right thing to do at this point in time...We, Gonzaga University, have been through over the years some tough times with some tough situations, and we, Gonzaga University, will come out of this one, and will come out of it ahead in a positive way because that is who we are."

And that is exactly what would happen, starting on Sept. 23.

The NCAA announced on that Monday in September that basketball competition would happen again on Nov. 25. Practices would begin on Oct. 14, and teams were given 42 days to have 30 practices, and were given a transition period "to provide additional time for players to prepare for the upcoming season based on the mental and physical challenges basketball players are facing as

a result of the pandemic," per a WCC news release last August.

After the Zags basketball program began competition, the end of the semester introduced the schedules for some of the sports that would be coming back for the spring semester. Both tennis teams released schedules, and the following sports would follow suit, leaving us in the position we are in today with almost every sport on campus happening at once.

Looking back on the past year of GU sports, it has been clearly anything but normal. But if I were to make an educated guess on how the past year has affected the athletes, I would direct you to the success they are having on the field. The GU basketball program is one of the best programs in the country heading into yet another opportunity to compete in the NCAA tournament, the cross country team will be competing for a national championship and the GU women's soccer program has only lost one game thus far. Other athletes and teams have had their fair share of success too, whether it be GU golfer Matt Ruel getting a hole-in-one in a tournament in Fresno or GU women's tennis running the court.

Nevertheless, these athletes are appreciative to get the chance to play, regardless of how their season ends.

"To think about where we've come from as far as just the measures we took in the beginning of it, (shutting down the tournament, the NBA season [being canceled], worried that hospitals wouldn't have enough room for people) ... we're really thankful that we found a way to piece together a season," GU basketball player Corey Kispert said.

So yeah, a lot has happened over the past year. But like Roth said back in August, we will come out of this better than before, because that is simply who we are.

Happy March Madness and Happy GU Sports season to you all. I can't wait to see what's in store for the promising future of GU athletics.

Vincent Saglimbeni is a sports editor. Follow him on Twitter: @vinnysaglimbeni.

## GU SPORTS CALENDAR

### Thursday March 11

➡ Women's Tennis at San Diego State, San Diego, CA, 2 p.m.

### Friday, March 12

➡ Volleyball vs. Santa Clara, 11:30 a.m.

➡ Baseball at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX, 4:30 a.m.

### Saturday, March 12

➡ Women's Tennis at USD, San Diego, CA, 11 a.m.

➡ Men's Tennis vs. Grand Canyon University, San Luis Obispo, CA, 11 a.m.

➡ Volleyball vs. Santa Clara, 11:30 a.m.

➡ Baseball at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX, Noon

➡ Women's Soccer vs. Loyola Marymount, 1:30 p.m.

### Sunday, March 13

➡ Women's Rowing at CVEATC, Chula Vista, CA, TBA

➡ Men's Tennis vs. Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, CA, 10 a.m.

➡ Women's Tennis vs. Fresno State, San Diego, CA, 10:30 a.m.

➡ Baseball at Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX, 11 a.m.

➡ Men's Soccer vs. Saint Mary's, Moraga, CA, 1 p.m.

➡ Men's and Women's Selection Sunday

### Monday, March 15

➡ Cross Country at NCAA National Championship, Stillwater, OK, 9:50 a.m.

### Tuesday, March 16

➡ Women's Soccer at San Francisco, CA, 1 p.m.

\*All home games in bold\*

## GU women's rowing heads into the cut of a new season

By TOMMY CONNOLLY

The Gonzaga women's rowing team heads right back down to an all too familiar place this coming Thursday.

The Zags will be in Chula Vista, California this week for their first regatta of the season. GU will go up against familiar conference foes Loyola Marymount and San Diego.

"Kind of full circle back to last year and getting to race some other conference schools that are highly ranked is exciting," said Lauren McCallum a senior captain on the GU women's rowing team.

Coronavirus has caused an uncertainty to loom over college athletics and especially the women's rowing program. Prior to the week of March 1, 2021, GU was still without a schedule for their season.

"It has been hard over the past six to eight months to know if we will even have a season," McCallum said. "The fact that me and the other six seniors get to have that opportunity too and take it all in knowing this is our last season is really amazing."

McCallum is one of seven seniors on this year's team and is excited about the group of girls that make up the rowing team this season.

"We are so young and have girls that have never raced a 2K on the water before, so getting in the boat and improving up until WCC's (West Coast Conference) is what I am looking forward to," McCallum said.

The GU women's rowing team had a scrimmage last weekend in Seattle against Seattle University. This was the first time getting boats into the water this year, and some student-athletes' first time rowing on the water.

"It was nice finally getting back in the water and being able to not have to row on an erg machine," said Grace Dojan, a sophomore and preseason All-WCC selection.

GU is led this season by three preseason All-WCC selections as well as two returning all-conference performers from two seasons ago. McCallum, as senior captain, is looking for her third all-conference selection in three years, while looking to be joined for the first time by Dojan. Senior Zoe Calambokidis rounds out the trio of rowers who were nominated for preseason All-WCC, as she looks to make her second first team all-conference.

Looking ahead at the schedule for this season, GU is



BULLETIN FILE PHOTO

The GU women's rowing team begins its season on Saturday.

projected to finish second in the conference. In the last season GU was on the water, they won their fifth-straight WCC Tournament and their 18th overall.

Although GU did not have a fall season this year, the team was able to take advantage of the weather and health restrictions in the Spokane area.

"I feel like we were very lucky to be able to row in the fall and have full team practices," Dojan said. "I was talking to some of my other friends in the conference and they didn't have the same opportunities as us due to restrictions that they have and other factors."

Dojan and the Zags have been using the unknown factor of what other teams are doing as a motivating factor to make this season count.

"I think that not knowing what other teams are doing has been a driving force for us, as I'm sure it's been for the other teams," Dojan said.

"I hope we are rowing our best and everyone is at the

top of their game by May 15 for WCC's," McCallum said.

Although the racing season just started for GU, the conference season will only run for two months, and will culminate with the WCC Tournament on May 15.

GU is in a prime position to capture their sixth-straight tournament championship and 19th overall.

Over the past few years GU's women's rowing program has grown exponentially in funding, training and success. This growth has been a driving factor in why McCallum thinks this team has been so successful.

"Our success as a program is definitely far from its potential and that is what I am most excited to see about after I graduate," McCallum said.

Tommy Connolly is a staff writer.



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