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College Heights Herald

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2019

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 95, ISSUE 09



TOP LEFT: MATT GADD • HERALD SURROUNDING PROVIDED BY CAROLINE CLARK AND LOREN GASKIN

'THE WORLD WAS TRULY ROBBED'

Friends recall WKU student's service-oriented life

BY LILY BURRIS
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

Above all, Taylor Kay Grider cared about everyone around her.

She loved the people in her life and made sure they were doing well in the midst of the chaos.

Grider cared about every person in the room. She cared about the trees outside and the fish in the ocean. Her friends remember her planning a service project to help save the world or thinking about a medical mission trip.

Grider, a biochemistry junior from Russell Springs, died on Oct. 13 at the Russell County Hospital, according to her obituary. The Russell County Coroner confirmed she died of a blood clot.

Grider was a member of the Rho

chapter of Omega Phi Alpha. She served as the nation's committee head, as a parliamentarian, on the standards board and helped with recruitment. She was also a member of the Mahurin Honors College.

Caroline Clark, a special and elementary education junior from Louisville, met Grider when they were freshmen at H4, the Honors Freshman Orientation Retreat. They got to know each other through MASTER Plan and as neighbors in Minton Hall.

"Within a week, I couldn't imagine life without her," Clark said in an email.

Clark and Grider just clicked. They had a real, easy friendship.

"Taylor was very steady, and solid, a constant in the ever-changing life of a college student," Clark said. "She was always there if I needed to talk, or cry, or just hang out."

Grider was "one of the biggest blessings" Clark has gotten from college, she said. She recalled things they would do together, including fall break Nashville trips, movie nights and spending their Wednesdays eating waffles at Spencer's Coffee.

"I was lucky enough to be able to call her my best friend, my sorority sister, and my roommate," Clark said.

Grider loved cats and plants, her friends and family, and serving, Clark said. She was a loyal friend, a good listener and a natural leader.

"She was thoughtful, and the kind of friend who checked in on me when she knew something wasn't right," Clark said. "She was selfless and understanding. Truly one of a kind."

Grider and Clark's birthdays are one day apart: March 18 and 19, respectively. The pair had planned to celebrate

their 21st birthdays in Germany.

Though she will miss that adventure, Clark said she is thankful for all the ones they were able to experience together.

When Grider was in Honors 251, she was placed in a group with Sara Davis, a health sciences junior from Glasgow, who would later become her roommate.

The best memories Davis recalls with Grider are staying up in their dorm room and talking when they should have been sleeping.

"You get to know a person when your bed is three feet away from theirs," Davis said in a text message. "That's when we had both our deepest and our silliest conversations."

When Grider walked into a room, she brought life to it, Davis said. Grider was dedicated and driven in every

SEE TAYLOR • PAGE A2

IFC plans on-campus benefit concert

BY JULIE SISLER
HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

After months of undercover planning, the Interfraternity Council is unveiling its plans for its Nov. 2 tailgate and concert event that will benefit Hope Harbor.

The event will feature a free concert by up-and-coming country music artist John King and will take place at 1 p.m. on South Lawn, leading up to the home game against Florida Atlantic.

King, a rising star on the country music scene, has multiple chart-topping hits and has worked with acts such as Florida Georgia Line, Jason Aldean and Hootie and the Blowfish. King has toured 48 states in the last three years

and is excited to play at WKU and get a feel for the community here.

"I'm drawn to college campuses and the listeners there because they're the ones that are hungry for new music and something different," King said. "I knew that was the kind of fanbase that I want to build my core audience with. I just love how passionate that fanbase is."

IFC also chose to turn the event into a community event with philanthropic outreach. Kody Okert, IFC's vice president of recruitment, said this is in an effort to give back not only to the WKU community but to the Bowling Green community as a whole.

A portion of the proceeds from the food trucks will benefit Hope Harbor, a local sexual trauma recovery center that provides counseling and advocacy.

"Hope Harbor is an incredible organization that we've been lucky to work

very closely with for the last five or six years," Okert said. "We're also given the ability to raise all this money to give back to the community that does so much for us."

Planning began in August, when John King and Will Harris, IFC's vice president of judicial affairs and WKU's student body president, made contact.

"I knew it was something that IFC would love to pursue," Harris, who led the planning, said. "I realized that this could become a reality."

The event started as a concept, one that IFC had been hoping to implement since last November.

"This is something that we promised in our election speeches last November," Okert said. "We wanted this as a way to bring inter-fraternalism to our

SEE CONCERT • PAGE A2

LifeWorks helps students on autism spectrum

BY ABBEY NUTTER AND LILY BURRIS
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

LifeWorks at WKU is building a housing facility for former students on the autism spectrum, members of the LifeWorks board, WKU President Timothy Caboni and local officials broke ground on the facility Monday.

This facility will be the home for a program that will help those 21 and over and on the autism spectrum live independently and maintain employment. There will be six participants in the pro-

SEE LIFEWORKS • PAGE A2

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LIFEWORKS

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

gram when it starts, which is expected to be in August 2020. The program could grow to 26 participants.

Each resident will receive a mentor to assess their interests in needs while living in LifeWorks at WKU so they will further engage within their communities, according to a news release. The groundbreaking event on Monday signified the start of construction on the residence and office spaces, which partners expect to be completed by April 2020.

At the ceremony, Joe Dan Beavers, president and CEO of LifeSkills Inc., spoke highly of all the resources and support that have come from WKU and the Bowling Green community for this program. Beavers is also the board chair for the LifeWorks Board of Directors.

"This is just, I think, one of many of the next steps of groundbreaking and innovating work that you're going to see out of this group," Beavers said. "I'm just so excited and really honored to even play a small part."

Caboni said programs like LifeWorks at WKU are a part of what "great universities," like WKU do. He said the program is a "great next step" to go with the work of the Kelly Autism Program and the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex.

"Folks, this truly is a game-changer for our university, for our community, for our region and for our state," Caboni said.



LILY BURRIS • HERALD
President Timothy Caboni participates in a ground breaking ceremony for LifeWorks at WKU, a new housing facility that will house former students on the autism spectrum who are transitioning out of college, on Monday, Oct. 21, 2019.

Ron Bunch, president and CEO of the Bowling Green Chamber of Commerce, said that the partnership between the Chamber and LifeWorks at WKU will be a good thing. This program further supports the idea that Bowling Green is a great and caring place to live.

"We at the Chamber are 100% committed to connecting the business community with the opportunities and the individuals that will be going through

this program and really just weaving an even stronger, even greater community," Bunch said.

Mary Lloyd Moore, Executive Director of the Suzanne Vitale Clinical Education Complex, also spoke to the purposes and goals of the LifeWorks at WKU program.

"LifeWorks at WKU is a four-tier program that will focus on independence, productivity, and community engagement," Moore explained. "For students

to achieve independence, LifeWorks will provide supported living accommodations for up to 26 individuals."

Moore explained that the four tiers of LifeWorks will focus on supported living, supported employment, community engagement and education for relationships, at home, in the workplace and out in the community.

Although the capacity of the buildings is estimated to be 26 individuals, the first "cohort" will be around six, according to Moore. She went on to explain that the full capacity of 26 residents will be reached in two to three years.

Moore stated that the program would develop partnerships with businesses in the Bowling Green Area that will continue to grow and develop as construction moves forward.

"This is an incredibly unique opportunity," Moore said. "We will join the ranks of pioneers in providing programming and support for individuals on the autism spectrum as they transition to adult life and navigate the work world independently."

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CONCERT

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

campus. We just wanted to do this all together as the fraternities and the Bowling Green community together."

Harris said the planning process was long and filled with a variety of unforeseen lessons. He learned about looking at contracts, how long legal matters take and about how to work with people to make sure everything fits together.

Okert said the process was about learning how to handle the little things and all the details that go into putting on an event of this size.

"It's humbling because when you sit down it's so much more than just getting a stage and some speakers," Okert said. "Will has been swamped with paperwork for everything from liability to needing three hotel rooms and healthy snacks. If one thing doesn't work, it could all fall through."

The precariousness of the situation is exactly why IFC chose to keep the event a secret.

"The big thing about keeping it a secret is that with contracts, there's always the possibility that something won't work out," Harris said. "With this being the first concert that anyone on the council had tried to put together,

"We're here for the students. We're not the suitcase campus that we once were."

IFC VICE PRESIDENT OF JUDICIAL AFFAIRS
WILL HARRIS

er, there was this fear that something might not work out."

Harris believes WKU is a unique institution because it offers so many resources to students, along with the fact that it is supported by a "close-knit

community in Bowling Green.

"Those ties go really deep," Harris said. "This is something that other people can start to plan now. We've got large scale campus events that started with little to nothing and have culminated into huge events that we have here on campus. It goes to show that with a little bit of help from campus and the effort from students, you can accomplish these big scale events."

Harris drew inspiration from WKU's Cage the Elephant concert in 2018 and is looking to expand the event.

The event will feature tailgating on South Lawn, food trucks around the Guthrie Bell Tower and of course King's headlining performance.

WKU President Timothy Caboni, who has been working closely with Harris and IFC on the event, views the event as something for the whole community.

"WKU is pleased to partner with IFC to bring such a talented entertainer to our campus," Caboni said in an email. "This adds another dimension to the tailgating and football experience for our students and entire WKU commu-

nity."

Harris said he hopes this event will be a way to give back to the WKU community and show how much WKU and its student organizations care for the student body and its college experience.

"We're here for the students, we're not the suitcase campus that we once were," Harris said. "That's not the case anymore. We've got events lined up virtually every weekend, and students have the ability to come to the campus from anywhere in the world and will find things to do. We're all about opportunity for our WKU students."

Harris hopes this event will lay the foundation for future events put on student organizations. He believes this is the type of event that can show the WKU and Bowling Green community what an amazing atmosphere WKU has, especially on game day.

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TAYLOR

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

aspect of her life, and she kept working for what she wanted.

"She was an incredible student, an adoring girlfriend, and the most loving friend anyone could ask for," Davis said.

Grider loved being a part of the campus community, Davis said. She loved WKU and getting to know people through her organizations.

"She was one of the best, funniest, most loving, most caring people that I've ever had the honor to call a friend," Davis said. "Everything will be a little bit dimmer without her here."

Grider was always starting service projects to help the planet and dedicated her life to helping those around her, said Lyn Steenbergen, OPA's president.

"She was one of the most positive and radiant people I've ever met in my life," Steenbergen said. "She was constantly smiling and reaching out to others and checking on other people."

Grider was willing to be there for anyone and everyone, Steenbergen said.

"I think that most of all, Taylor would just want everyone to dedicate their lives to helping others in the way that she did," Steenbergen said. "She was

such a bright and positive person, and she would just want everyone to be as service oriented as she always was."

Loren Gaskin, history and anthropology junior from Russell Springs, was Grider's boyfriend of three years. They had plans to get married after she finished medical school.

"Taylor herself though was an amazing individual," Gaskin said in an email. "She was brilliant, funny, outgoing, and just so amazingly caring. She loved helping people and being there for her friends."

Gaskin was proud of Grider and all her achievements. He spoke of her service work with her sorority and the medical mission trip she went on. Grider received early acceptance to medical school.

"I was so so proud of everything she did," Gaskin said. "She was inspirational to me and many others. She was the most unique and amazing person I've ever met, and there will never be anyone like her ever again. She was taken far too soon. The world was truly robbed."

News reporter Lily Burris can be reached at lily.burris203@topper.wku.edu. Follow her on Twitter at [@lily_burris](https://twitter.com/lily_burris).

First Year Village to have LLC's, communal bathrooms stay

BY ABBEY NUTTER
HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

WKU's under-construction First Year Village will include new Living Learning Communities in an effort to create student relationships. However, the dorms will also include communal bathrooms, as opposed to private bathrooms that are shared between 1-4 students, seen in high-end dorms at other schools, including the University of Kentucky.

Construction of the First Year Village has been a constant for those living at the bottom of the Hill since June 2019 and will continue to be until August 2021, according to the timeline detailed on Housing and Residence Life's "Future of Housing" page.

Mike Reagle, executive director for housing and dining, said that the First Year Village has roughly the same timeline as the WKU Commons, scheduled to be completed in two years. Reagle expressed his hopes for the outcome of the project and also gave more insight of what the First Year Village will look like.

"We are hoping it is going to increase our ability to recruit first year students and to retain students that we currently have," Reagle said. "We know that students who have a good experience during their first year are much more likely to come back for their second year."

Reagle said the freshman village is designed around living learning spaces, which are communities where HRL plans to incorporate faculty members and academic programs.

"It will engage students outside of the classroom within their particular hall," Reagle said. "That's the interest behind it — to create those learning communities."

Reagle said the buildings in the First Year Village will be organized by coed "pods" of 25 students, with each pod designed to be self-contained and help students get to know each other in a smaller group.

"What we're trying to do is to try to bring the density of students down to 25, which is kind of like a classroom size," Reagle said. "The 25 students in



The communal bathroom in Douglas Keen Hall on Sunday Oct. 20, 2019.

MATT GADD • HERALD

each of those pods would have a much better chance of getting to know one another and be able to develop a relationship with a faculty member or a couple of faculty members from specific academic programs."

Plans for Building One include 12 student rooms, an RA room, a common space and four bathrooms, two of which will be gender-neutral, the other two will be male and female. Reagle said there will be approximately three toilets and three showers in each of those male and female bathrooms.

Reagle said the factors that went into the decision to make the bathrooms within the pods communal were the cost, the goals of the project and the industry standards of what

other institutions around the country were building.

Reagle said that when factoring in the cost of individual bathrooms and the fixtures and extra plumbing necessary for those rooms, it took the price of the project beyond what the university could afford.

Another issue with individual bathrooms was the tendency for students not to go out into the common areas when those bathrooms were within their rooms, Reagle said.

"We want students to get to know each other, and we want to add as many new beds as we can," Reagle said.

Brian Kuster, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Experience, stated in a previous Herald interview

in Summer 2019 that the project had evolved over time from when it was first envisioned.

"The first year village is designed for the success of our first year students," Kuster said. "These buildings will have a lot of amenities that we know by research and best practices that will help our first year students be successful and persist from their fall enrollment."

News reporter Abbey Nutter can be reached at 270-745-6011 and abbigail.nutter168@topper.wku.edu. Follow her on Twitter at [@abbeynutter](https://twitter.com/abbeynutter). Lily Burris contributed to reporting on this story.

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CORRECTION

- A story in the Oct. 15 edition of the Herald stated that an undergraduate criminology major was frustrated over the elimination of the criminology graduate program. The Herald wants to clarify that WKU is not eliminating the undergraduate criminology program, just the graduate program. The Herald also wants to clarify that the elimination of the programs mentioned in the story is due only in part to CAPE recommendations. There have also been longstanding enrollment issues in those programs.

CRIME REPORTS

October 1, 2019

A former WKU men's and women's track and field coach reported losing seven keys.

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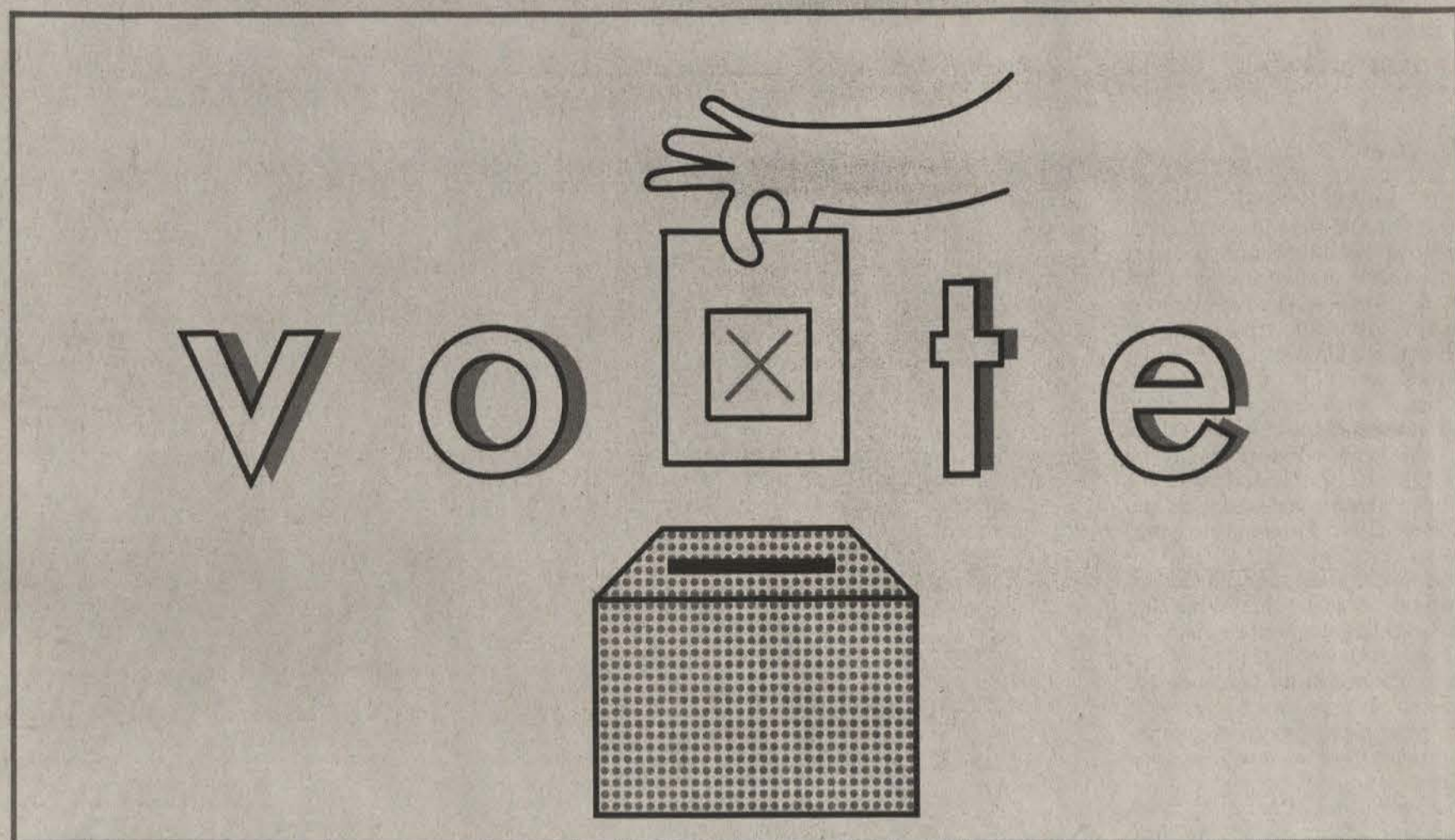


ILLUSTRATION BY MADALYN STACK • HERALD

EVERY VOTE COUNTS

Young voters can have more impact than they think

HERALD EDITORIAL STAFF
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Issue: Voting is something many Americans take for granted because they think one vote isn't big enough to matter.

Stance: Every Kentuckian should understand their responsibility to vote and go to the polls in November.

Voting turnout is consistently low, proving many Americans of voting age take the right for granted.

In the 2015 general gubernatorial election, 30.6% of eligible Kentucky voters showed up to the polls to cast their ballot, according to the State Board of Elections' report. In the 2016

presidential election, nearly 56% of the United States voting age population voted.

American patriotism is often coupled with the ideas of democracy and freedom, which includes the right to vote, but Americans consistently ignore this right. They don't live up to what they portray their values to be.

"Every vote counts" is the mantra of many when elections roll around, and it's true. Just last year, Kentucky House Representative Jim Glenn won his election by a single vote.

Deciding not to vote because you think one vote doesn't matter is the bystander effect: everyone thinks somebody else will take care of the problem, so the problem is never solved. It's a mentality that prevents progress or change.

This is especially important for state and local elections, since these have both a smaller amount of potential voters and turnout percentage, which makes the margin of victory much closer. Presidential elections consistently have the largest election turnouts per state because of the broad scope of impact it carries, but there is a significant dip in state and local elections that could have a much more direct impact on those voting in them.

While no age demographic has a perfect voting record, younger people are usually outvoted by older generations. It is counterintuitive for people to be making decisions for those who have a longer time to deal with the consequences of an election.

Older generations generally understand the importance of elections be-

cause they have been around to see what it's like when one doesn't go their way. Young people should have awareness of the ramifications that could come with each election instead of waiting for the outcome to not go their way before getting inspired to vote.

Even if your vote doesn't end up being the popular one, it still allows your voice to be heard. A candidate who does well in the polls despite losing will show their party which values their constituents truly care about, whether it's health care, gun control or tax reform.

Voting is a right and a responsibility, and there is enough time to become informed about each candidate to make an educated decision. Find your precinct location and do your part in shaping where you think the future should go.

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The Wild West

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- How long did the Shootout at the O.K. Corral last?
(a) 15 minutes (b) 1 hour (c) 30 seconds
- What was the last major battle of the 'Indian Wars'?
(a) Wounded Knee Massacre (b) Sand Creek Massacre
(c) Battle of the Little Big Horn
- What lawman worked with Wyatt Earp on the Dodge City police force?
(a) Pat Garrett (b) Bat Masterson (c) Wild Bill Hickok
- What was Annie Oakley's real name?
(a) Myrtle Kimmell (b) Mattie Blaylock (c) Phoebe Moses
- In the Battle of the Little Big Horn, what indian was a scout for the 7th Cavalry?
(a) Gall (b) Bloody Knife (c) Red Horse
- Harry Logan was better known as who?
(a) Kid Curry (b) Butch Cassidy (c) Black Bart
- Known as Crooked Nose, who was the outlaw whose most famous act was killing Wild Bill Hickok?
(a) Johnny Ringo (b) Jack McCall (c) Cole Younger
- Ellen Liddy Watson was the first woman to be lynched by vigilantes for what crime?
(a) Bank robbery (b) Murder (c) Cattle rustling
- What outlaw was a member of William Clarke Quantrill's and Bloody Bill Anderson's Confederate guerrillas?
(a) Frank James (b) Billy the Kid (c) Ike Clanton
- What hired-gun worked for the Pinkerton Detective Agency?
(a) Jim Averell (b) Tom Horn (c) Morgan Earp

Solution

5. b
4. c
3. b
2. a
1. c

Sudoku 1

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

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

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Sudoku 2

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

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

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Across

- “___, the Magic Dragon”
- Speed demon
- Eyesore
- Polo grounds?
- Accustom
- Creme-filled cookie
- Defraud
- Reef material
- Lothario's look
- Skilled worker
- Everglades bird
- Drink from a dish
- W.W. II turning point
- Doesn't go
- Impinge on someone's privacy
- Young male horses
- Ceremony
- Pigeon pea
- Mimicker
- Feasts
- Filly's mother
- Opportune
- Razorbills
- Sad song
- Hardwood tree
- Willow twig
- Retain
- Overhead trains
- Kind of engineer
- Accost
- Rani's wear
- Runs in neutral
- Island east of Java
- Diabolical

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					63		
64					65					66		

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- Ruth's mother-in-law
- Baseball stat
- Down
- Legal prefix
- Exploitative type
- Decree
- Line of descent
- Summation
- Any day now
- Mongrel
- Sets free
- Kind of prize
- Impulse
- Tuna
- Dupin's creator
- Back talk
- Cheat
- Bar words
- Hate
- Melee memento
- Something to talk about
- First Hebrew letter
- Three in one
- Type of evidence
- Puppeteer Lewis
- Barracks boss
- Sinister look
- International
- Sweetie pie
- Schuss, e.g.
- Red fluorescent dye
- Spanish sparkling white wine
- Pupil's locale
- Loathsome
- Interstate hauler
- Veil
- Pandora's boxful
- Game piece
- Behold
- Family member
- Fan setting

Last week's solution:

REF	ARI	MOA	GIN									
IRA	BEN	OWL	UNO									
GALLEON	DEADEND											
AIT	ODE	SOS										
CAFE	CAR	ESAU										
UKE	BEING	ETA										
PALADINS	LEADER											
LENT	DESI											
RAVING	CONTRACT											
PHI	ORION	NEW										
MANE	OAR	STOA										
TOP	MOW	PAW										
GRANOLA	ACUTELY											
AUG	SEN	YAM	RYE									
TEE	TIS	SPA	PEW									

Solution 1

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

Solution 2

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

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PHOTO



GABI BROEKEMA • HERALD

Allyson Taylor, an accounting major from Lancaster, was crowned WKU's Homecoming queen during half-time of the Hilltoppers' game against the Charlotte 49ers on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019, in Houchens-Smith Stadium. Taylor is the daughter of TJ and Sheila Taylor, an accounting major, and was sponsored by Delta Sigma Pi.

COMING HOME

WKU celebrates 'Decades of Spirit' with parade, football game

BY ESTHER HEATH
HERALD.PHOTO@WKU.EDU

WKU's Homecoming weekend kicked off with a

parade on Friday. The floats featured in the parade centered around the theme "Decades of Spirit." The WKU football team followed up the parade with a 30-14 win in the Homecoming game against University of North

Carolina at Charlotte on Saturday. Allyson Taylor of Lancaster, representing Delta Sigma Pi, was announced as the winner of Homecoming queen during halftime of the game.



BRENNNA PEPKE • HERALD

Creighton Waddell, 2, runs to push the football from his fathers hand on South Lawn during the Homecoming tailgate festivities on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 19 2019.



GABI BROEKEMA • HERALD

Chris Reynolds (3) of the Charlotte 49ers gets hit by DeAngelo Malone (10) of WKU on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2019, in Houchens-Smith Stadium. WKU beat Charlotte 30-14.



ESTHER HEATH • HERALD

Members of WKU's Alpha Gamma Delta sorority ride along the route of the homecoming parade on Friday, Oct. 18, 2019. Many of WKU's sorority and fraternity chapters contributed to the homecoming parade by creating their own floats for the event.



BRENNNA PEPKE • HERALD

Anthony Huslay and BJ Nesbitt dance during the Saturday afternoon Homecoming tailgate on Saturday, Sept. 19, 2019. The two are a part of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity which was celebrating 50 years on the WKU campus during Homecoming weekend.



SAM MALLON • HERALD

Colby Wicker, 21, performs as drag queen Spectra Cosmos at WKU's fifth annual "Drag Show" hosted by WKU Housing and Residence Life on April 11, 2019. At the time, Wicker said he has only been performing drag for about five months.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

Bowling Green resident finds liberation through drag

BY KELLEY HOLLAND

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

When Colby Wicker puts on one of his many colorful wigs and a full face of makeup, he feels transformed and ready to conquer the world.

Under the name Spectra Cosmos, Wicker performs as a drag performer around Bowling Green and Nashville. He first fell in love with drag after attending a show in Nashville in 2016, ultimately deciding to pursue a career of his own.

Although he is fairly new to the scene, Wicker hasn't been shy about making himself known. Spectra boasts over 1000 followers on an Instagram account made only seven months ago, and he performed at Bowling Green Pride last month.

However, getting to this point in his life was not without hardships.

Born as a female in Hawaii to a military household, Wicker and his family moved around a lot. He lived in New Mexico, California, Pennsylvania, Michigan and even Germany before settling in Kentucky in 2016.

He began to question his identity during high school, saying he always felt he was different but wasn't sure how to describe it.

"I wasn't exposed to any queer media," Wicker said. "I didn't have the language to describe any of the feelings that I was experiencing."

He began to make friends who were part of the LGBTQ community around that time, doing research on the community's history and even attending some gay bars and clubs. It was then he was able to pinpoint his feelings and discover his preferred identity as a male.

He said the realization was liberating, but he would need to break the news to his conservative, Christian parents.

They kicked him out of the house 15 minutes after the conversation.

"My mom didn't look me in the face for, like, a year," Wicker said. "It was

Wicker took the opportunity to build himself from the ground up, wanting to show his parents he didn't need them to succeed. Soon after, they had a change of heart.

"Once they were able to see how happy and healthy I actually was, that sort of changed their minds," Wicker said. "Now they call me by my name, they address me, they've welcomed me back. So things are actually pretty good now."

Now 21 years old, Wicker is a student at Bowling Green community college SKYCTC studying nursing. His goal is to pursue a career in health-

The two have known each other for about two years now. Hicks said although she was familiar with drag prior to meeting Wicker, he taught her even more about the scene and history behind it.

For Wicker, drag is all about self-expression.

"I have never experienced such a simultaneously thrilling and liberating medium to just be myself," Wicker said.

Wicker said he doesn't consider Spectra Cosmos an alter ego but simply a more amplified version of his own personality. He described her as louder and shameless.

The drag scene in Bowling Green is much smaller and underground than other areas, Wicker said. There are only a couple of local places for performances, including the A-Frame, which Wicker frequents.

He said he hopes people who are unfamiliar with the scene can be open-minded and realize drag performers are just like anyone else.

"I think there are a lot of common misconceptions about what drag is or what drag should be," Wicker said. "What we're doing is changing the world by putting our authentic selves and art out into the world."

Features reporter Kelley Holland can be reached at kelley.holland872@topper.wku.edu.

"What we're doing is changing the world by putting our authentic selves and art out into the world."

Drag queen
COLBY WICKER

such a strange, hard, heartbreaking relationship to try to keep."

By this time, Wicker was about to start his sophomore year at WKU as an exercise science major. He was living out of his car as well as working a part-time job, making it difficult to be a full-time student. This eventually led him to drop out.

care outside of performing.

Tyana Hicks, Wicker's roommate, described Wicker as an incredibly passionate and career-oriented person both in and outside of drag.

"When it is time to perform or time to work, he is ready to put on a show and make people happy," Hicks said. "He is a very talented people person."

Gatton student proves age is no obstacle

KATELYN LATTURE

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Samuel Chang looks like most high school students. At 15 years old, he's still growing into his lanky limbs, and he isn't quite as tall nor as deeply voiced as his college-age peers.

As a first-year student at the Gatton Academy, Chang is on a non-degree-seeking path at WKU. He will earn high school diplomas from Gatton and Bowling Green High School in the spring of 2021, and he will likely be considered a junior by credit hours whenever he begins college the following fall.

Though Gatton mandates its students take between 16-19 credit hours per semester, Chang wants more. If it were up to him, he'd turn the academy's two-year structure on its head.

"I feel like I'm a bee buzzing around everywhere," Chang said, noting the hectic nature of his academic pursuits.

With one glance at a color-coded document which serves as Chang's academic schedule for the next two years, it's easy to see why he might feel like the always-on-the-move insect. However, despite his best efforts, Chang will graduate from Gatton on pace with all other first-year students.

Gatton Director Lynette Breedlove said it's common for students to seek out additional credit opportunities, but she prefers they don't rush.

"I want them to see themselves as

more than a test score," Breedlove said. "They need time to be part of a community."

Chang's mother, Yining Chin, an accounting professor at WKU, said she's surprised by her son's fast-paced focus.

"He seems to be very devoted," Chin said. "I don't know where he got the energy or the commitment."

She said it might be Chang's sense of honor which motivates all he does. Or perhaps it came from years of going above and beyond — Chang skipped first grade and said some of his earliest memories come from completing math worksheets his mother gave him as additional work when homework wasn't enough.

Aside from studying math economics at Gatton, Chang keeps himself busy with activities such as teaching Bible study and ACT prep classes and practicing piano and tennis. He said he can't study one subject for more than two to three hours at a time, which makes his list of extracurricular activities appear to be never-ending.

A talented pianist, Chang was a student at the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts, and he won the 2019 KMTA junior piano competition. On Sundays, Chang leads his church, Living Hope Baptist Church, in worship through music.

He said one of his main purposes in life is his love for God, which more specifically drives his involvement in church activities. Chang also teaches

an elementary-age Bible study for a Chinese church congregation which meets at Living Hope.

"There are two things that drive me: the pursuit of knowledge and the love of God," Chang said.

He teaches an ACT prep class at Bowling Green Junior High School on Friday afternoons, as well, noting interaction with students and helping them learn is very important to him. If jobs in education paid more, Chang said, he would probably be a teacher.

Though he eventually plans to earn a doctorate in his chosen study of math econ, he has no definite plans to this point.

What is certain is Chang is scheduled to graduate from high school next spring at just 16 years old. Until then, his commitment to progress speaks for itself.

Features reporter Katelyn Latture can be reached at katelyn.latture423@topper.wku.edu.



SAM MALLON • HERALD

Gatton Academy first-year student Samuel Chang talks with his tennis coach, Rob Balge, during his weekly tennis lessons at Kereiakes Park on Sept. 29, 2019. Tennis is the first sport Chang has ever played, and Balge said he can really see him improving so far.

Speech to text: one professor's 20-year endeavor

BY JULIE SISLER

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Dictionaries aren't usually much cause for excitement, but that is not the case for Elizabeth Winkler, a professor in the WKU English department. To her, reading a dictionary is far more than grabbing a dusty volume off a shelf to look up a word.

Winkler teaches English as a second language and other courses within the field of linguistics, which she described as "the study of language, its forms and its usages in real communities." It is this area of study which led to her unique relationship with dictionaries.

Around 20 years ago, Winkler worked with a native speaker of Kpelle, a West African language also found in Liberia and Guinea-Bissau. Winkler learned the language did not have a written dictionary despite being completely functional and Liberia's most spoken first and second language.

In response, Winkler decided to undertake the arduous task of creating a dictionary for the Kpelle language.

"If I had known what a nightmare doing a dictionary would be, I probably would have never started it," Winkler said with a laugh. "It's horrible, tedious work."

Winkler explained the work is tedious because it means figuring out what constitutes a word. This is particularly difficult for words which don't refer to a concrete object or action but rather an abstract idea or transition word.

Winkler said Kpelle differs from other languages in that it views things from a different perspective. For example, body parts are labeled differently in Kpelle than English.

"This language doesn't divide arm and hand, it divides right here at the elbow joint down," Winkler said. "How do you figure out those kinds of things?"

A phonetic dictionary was published about three years after Winkler began work on it.

To her surprise, Winkler learned the dictionary was being purchased across the world, including in the United States. She found everyone from veterans, nurses and doctors wanted to learn Kpelle for a variety of reasons such as teaching their children and understanding patients.



KEILEN FRAZIER • HERALD

WKU professor Elizabeth Winkler teaches a basic language class on Oct. 21, 2019. Winkler is in the process of creating a dictionary for Kpelle, a West African language commonly found in Liberia.

Winkler was later approached by native speakers interested in establishing Kpelle as the national language of Liberia. This meant the language would need a written system.

"I'm the pasty white lady from outside — I've got no right to be making these decisions for native speakers," Winkler said. "So I worked with native speakers to get them to create the writing system."

Winkler noted her job wasn't to create or alter the language already in place but to act as a scribe.

"They created the system," Winkler said. "I'm just taking the system that these people decided on, and I'm the one who wrote down the words."

Winkler acted as an adviser for the native speakers, pulling linguistic examples from other languages in order to show what opportunities existed for Kpelle. With this newly written language, the Kpelle dictionary will be writable not just in phonetic characters but also its own written language.

The creation of a written language included many obstacles, however.

Winkler said certain areas which speak the language exhibit alternate pronunciations, meaning a single al-

tered sound can change the meaning of a word. Winkler found one word could be said three different ways depending on the geographic location of the group saying it. The system had to note all of these pronunciations.

"This language has all kinds of sounds that don't exist in English," Winkler said. "It's highly complex."

Winkler said when the written language is completed and becomes used regularly, native speakers will continue to modify it. The same occurs with English and other languages.

"Now it really belongs in the hands of local people," Winkler said. "So as soon as I finish this, I will be turning over the whole thing to native speakers who can then take it, own it, publish it in their own country, modify it, fix it."

By passing the project off to native speakers, Winkler said she hopes the publishing project will create jobs and lower prices of the final product, given it will be published and sold locally in Liberia.

"I feel like I've done what I can do," Winkler said.

WKU English professor Trini Stickle said Winkler's work reflects an important step in preserving both language

and culture.

"Many languages go extinct in precisely these kinds of situations," Stickle said. "Children are taught in the national language, and they may simply not acquire all the features of the home language. After enough time, these languages die — the last speakers take that knowledge with them. So, when linguists work with a community to preserve an oral language by documenting the features of that language in written form, they are helping preserve not only a language but a culture."

Winkler's 20-year endeavor with the Kpelle language has taken her on a rollercoaster of obstacles and emotions, but it ultimately left her with a variety of lessons, Winkler said.

"You can't just operate out of the academic ivory tower," Winkler said. "You've got to get down with normal people and look at what normal people's lives do. Things I do may impact people."

Features reporter Julie Sisler can be reached at julie.sisler389@topper.wku.edu. Follow Julie on social media at [@julie_sisler](https://twitter.com/julie_sisler).

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WKU soccer drops 2 games during Texas roadtrip

BY NICK KIESER
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

The WKU soccer team (8-6-1, 4-4 C-USA) dropped two consecutive Conference USA road matchups over the weekend in the Lone Star State, falling 2-0 to North Texas (11-4, 6-1 C-USA) and 1-0 to Rice (8-4-2, 5-0-2 C-USA).

The Mean Green handed WKU its third conference loss of the season on Friday, while the Lady Toppers fell to the Owls for their fourth loss of league play on Sunday.

The Lady Toppers have now been shutout four times this season, and for the first time this season the WKU soccer team was shutout in back-to-back games.

WKU also moved from being tied for second place last weekend to now holding sole possession of fourth place in the conference standings with 12 total points.

Friday's matchup with the Mean Green saw the Lady Toppers get outshot in the first half 11-2, while allowing five corner kicks.

The first goal of the game came off a throw-in by Mean Green midfielder Brooke Lampe, allowing teammate Michelle Gonzalez to boot in her second goal of the season at the 12:36 minute mark of the first half.

Redshirt senior goalkeeper Anne-Marie Ulliac made the initial save on the play after the throw-in, but she left the left side of the net open for Gonzalez.

Later in the first half, the Mean Green's leading goal-scorer Berkle Peters found the back of the net at the 38:45 minute mark for her 10th goal of the year.

Ulliac misplayed the airborne ball after a Mean Green player popped the ball up on the net from outside the box and left a rebound right at the feet of Peters to seal the deal.

Midfielder Ambere Barnett led the Lady Toppers with two shots on goal with one in the first half and the other in the second half, and Ulliac made four saves against the Mean Green.

North Texas bounced back against the Lady Toppers after losing the previous week on the road at Alabama-Birmingham 1-0. The Mean Green remained undefeated at home, boasting

a 9-0 mark after defeating the Lady Toppers.

Sunday's matchup against the Owls saw the Lady Toppers fall after a penalty kick ended the back-and-forth game.

The Lady Toppers held the Owls without a shot on net until the 17th minute in the first half of the conference matchup. Both teams fought for chances until the halfway point, but nothing gave for either team to start the game.

The game shifted in the Owls' favor after the Lady Toppers committed a foul not long after halftime. Rice midfielder Delaney Schultz scored her fourth on the season at the 63:47 minute mark to lift her program to victory.

Lady Topper goalkeeper Ulliac had a six-save performance and midfielder Deven Jackson delivered six shots on net, but none of them were able to reach the back of the net. The total shots on net for the game saw the Lady Toppers edge the Owls 18-16 to close the game.

Coming up next for the Lady Toppers is C-USA opponent UAB (4-5-5, 2-3-2 C-USA).

The Dragons most recently tied Old Dominion 2-2 and are currently tied



FAHAD ALOTAIBI • HERALD
WKU freshman Ansley Cate (20) kicks the ball against L.A. Tech during the game at the WKU Soccer Complex on Sept. 29, 2019.

for sixth place in the league table with eight points.

Friday's game against UAB is the Senior Day for the Lady Toppers, as Ulliac, Kaylyn Bryant, Christina Bragado and Chandler Backes are each slated to play their final home game.

Match time is set for 6 p.m. at the WKU Soccer Complex.

Reporter Nick Kieser can be reached at nick.kieser036@topper.wku.edu. Follow Nick on Twitter at @KieserNick.

Lady Toppers continue best start in program history

BY KADEN GAYLORD
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

The WKU volleyball team (21-1, 7-0 Conference USA) secured its 20th straight season with at least 20 wins this past weekend, defeating Middle Tennessee State (7-13, 1-5 C-USA) and Texas San-Antonio (13-8, 6-2 C-USA) in a pair of clean 3-0 sweeps.

The 23rd-ranked Lady Toppers are currently on a 17-game winning streak and have notched an NCAA-best 15 sweeps this season. The Lady Toppers have continued to add upon the best start in program history, as they're also the first team in the NCAA to achieve 20 wins in 2019.

"Twenty wins, 20-straight years; I have trouble getting my mind around it," coach Travis Hudson said in a postgame release. "I only coached five years before then and two of those were a 7-26 year and 9-22 year so we've come an awful long way. It's great that it's alumni weekend on the Hill this weekend because this program has always been about all the players that have worn the jersey, and to accomplish something like that that's been over a 20-year span is pretty special."

The Lady Toppers started their weekend with a three-set victory at MTSU on Friday.

WKU met its rival for the second time this season, posting a .426 percentage for the game and holding MTSU to .088. MTSU didn't score over

20 points in any set against WKU, including a scoring output as low as 14 points.

With the win, the Lady Topper volleyball program became the fifth team in NCAA with an active 20-win season streak at 20 seasons or better. The other teams are Nebraska (44), Penn State (42), Florida (28) and Colorado State (24).

WKU then made a quick pit stop in Diddle Arena to face UTSA on Sunday.

The Lady Toppers came out on fire and controlled the game from start to finish, as the Roadrunners only scored 10 points in the first set and 13 in the second.

UTSA played its best in the third set and got its first lead of the match, but the Roadrunners ultimately lost 25-22 in the final set.

"We're really starting to nail down things we know other teams can beat us with so we're trying to stay a step ahead of everyone else," senior Emma Kowalkowski said.

Following another winning weekend, WKU will head back on the road for a two-game round trip. The Lady Toppers will meet the two programs that are behind them in service aces — Alabama-Birmingham (11-8, 3-3 C-USA) and Charlotte (12-11, 2-5 C-USA).

UAB is coming off a 3-0 win against Florida International that saw the Blazers extend their home record to 6-1 on the season.

UAB owns a 23-10 lead in the all-time series between the teams dating back to 1982.

The Blazers won the first 21 meet-



BRITTANY FISHER • HERALD
WKU senior Sophia Cerino (23) and sophomore Katie Isenbarger (20) block a hit from UTSA. The Lady Toppers swept UTSA 3-0 Sunday, Oct. 20 in Diddle Arena.

ings, but WKU is 9-1 in the teams' last 10 matchups.

UAB is currently seventh in hitting percentage and kills. The Blazers are also fifth in the conference in opponent hitting percentage.

After the Blazers, WKU will head to Charlotte, North Carolina, to play the 49ers.

WKU owns a 13-3 all-time series lead against the 49ers dating back to 1982. Since joining C-USA WKU is undefeated against Charlotte and holding them to

only three set wins in their six matches.

The strength of the 49ers comes in the form of their defense, being fourth in opponent hitting percentage and second in blocks.

WKU faces UAB on Friday at 7 p.m. in Bartow Arena and Charlotte on Sunday at noon in Halton Arena.

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FOOTBALL CONTINUED FROM PAGE B4

Lucky Jackson for a nice 69-yard touchdown off a flea-flicker. In the fourth quarter, Jackson was the passer and threw an 8-yard touchdown pass to Storey.

Storey said that although the big plays hadn't happened to this point, the offense was still playing well regardless.

"We've been feeling good all year," Storey said. "We obviously haven't been putting up the points that we want to, but we've been driving the ball, and we internally know we're a good offense. It was nice tonight to put up a couple more touchdowns, but the crazy thing is we left a lot out there. The next step we have to take is not leave so many points out there and keep striving to get better."

The next step is to make these big plays a constant rather than an anomaly. The offense still left quite a bit of plays on the field, including a massive drop

from junior receiver Jacquez Sloan that could've gone for a 65-yard touchdown.

Jackson agreed that the offense still has a lot of untapped potential.

"I still feel like there's so much more out there for our offense," Jackson said. "We're just now touching the surface."

"I still feel like there's so much more out there for our offense. We're just now touching the surface. We've got big things in store."

Wide receiver
LUCKY JACKSON

We've got big things in store. We'll see the film tomorrow, make the corrections and learn from them."

Helton said a big part of connecting on big plays is being in a prime position at the perfect time. Helton believed

if the Hilltoppers stay the course, the explosive plays will follow.

"For us, I don't think you change anything we do," Helton said. "I think it was the right place at the right time, the right opportunity. We've taken some of those shots before and they haven't worked out

for us. They worked out this time."

Storey said that WKU must hit on the big plays when possible, but emphasized the need to simply win the game is of the utmost priority to this team.

"When it's there, we have to make it,"

Storey said. "Tonight we did. It's been there. Obviously, as good as our defense is too, there's a fine line you walk. You want to win the game. We want to be an explosive offense. We want to put up points. But, at the end of the day, as long as we're winning football games, it doesn't matter. We're going to continue to work and keep getting better to improve this offense. We just got to keep racking up these wins."

WKU will look to connect on more big plays on the road against Marshall (4-3, 2-1 C-USA) this weekend.

The Hilltoppers will travel to face the Thundering Herd in Joan C. Edwards Stadium in Huntington, West Virginia, next Saturday.

Kickoff is set for 1:30 p.m. The game will be streamed on Facebook Live.

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LADY TOPPERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE B4

"I think we are really good on defense right now," Givens said. "I think our defense is ahead of our offense."

Tough defense dominated the night, as both teams battled throughout the scrimmage. But the true joy of play-

ing the game with each other shone through more than anything for both Collins and his players.

"The team chemistry is really good, really strong," Collins said. "They enjoy being together and working hard together. You can see that effort on the floor."

Collins said he hopes to improve on his team's 20-15 record and Women's National Invitation Tournament ap-

pearance last year, and he knows his team will be tested early and often.

"We had a good season last year, but we did not finish where we wanted to finish," Collins said. "We are going to open up with pretty tough teams. We have Louisville off the bat, and then we have four teams who are all NCAA [Tournament] teams."

The Lady Toppers will open play with

an exhibition against Kentucky Wesleyan on Oct. 31 at 7 p.m. in Diddle Arena. The regular season begins the following Tuesday with a tough road test against Louisville on Nov. 5 at 6 p.m. in the KFC Yum! Center.

Reporter Jesse Spencer can be reached at jesse.spencer782@topper.wku.edu.

HILLTOPPERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE B4

Cooper has not yet been cleared by the NCAA to play in the upcoming 2019-20 season, but if he is eventually cleared, the Hilltoppers will have an experienced group of veteran players with game experience unlike any the program has seen under Stansbury.

Stansbury hopes bringing in the seasoned trio, which combined for 43 points during Hilltopper Hysteria, can strengthen WKU's offense from a season ago.

"Those are things we can do better," Stansbury said of his team's passing and shooting abilities. "Then, we've got enough guys who can make basketball plays, and I think shooting helps all of

that. The lane opens up a little bit and we got shooters out there. If you put all of the right guys on the right team, then it all gets better."

The Hilltoppers showed off their improvement from behind the arc at Hilltopper Hysteria, as the two WKU teams combined for shooting 16-of-35 shots from 3-point land. WKU also distributed the ball, recording 22 assists in 24 minutes of play.

Eight different players hit a 3-point shot at Hilltopper Hysteria. Among those players, Justice led the Hilltoppers from behind the arc, shooting 5 for 7 and scoring 17 points. Senior wing Jared Savage also shot well, going 6-of-7 from the field and scoring 16 points.

Justice said the team has been putting up extra shots after practice to im-

prove as a team.

"I feel like we have an unbelievable amount of chemistry on this team," Justice said. "I think, from day one, from the day when everyone stepped in here from the summer, everyone has been grinding, we've been picking one another up. There's a lot of times where you would look after practice, one or two guys still shooting, you look in there now, there's eight or nine of us in there still shooting in there after practice every day telling each other 'let's get some shots up.' So, I think that goes a long way."

Justice brings a notable amount of leadership with him from his years at IUPUI and Vanderbilt. Along with Justice's leadership, the Hilltoppers return four starters from their 2018-19 roster.

The Hilltoppers will have a week and

a half of practices to get ready for their first exhibition game against Kentucky State in Diddle Arena on Nov. 2, and just a few extra days to prepare for the Nov. 5 home opener against Tennessee Tech.

Junior guard Taveion Hollingsworth said it was great to be back in front of the fans and that the Hilltoppers have more to show when the season starts.

"It was pretty good," Hollingsworth said of Hilltopper Hysteria. "We loved every minute of it, really, and glad to see as many people out here as I thought. So, you know, it was a good scrimmage. We played hard and you guys got a good taste of what we have coming."

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SPORTS



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Top left: Freshman guard Jordan Rawls (3) eyes the basket as transfer senior guard Kenny Cooper (21) guards during the Red vs. White scrimmage during Hilltopper Hysteria on Thursday in Diddle Arena. Top right: Redshirt junior forward Bree Glover (44) dribbles the ball up the floor during Hilltopper Hysteria on Thursday in Diddle Arena. Bottom left: Head coach Rick Stansbury comes out of the tunnel for Hilltopper Hysteria during team introductions on Thursday in Diddle Arena. Bottom right: Freshman guard Hya Haywood (13) puts up a front in hopes of blocking junior guard Sherry Porter (22) from scoring a layup during Hilltopper Hysteria on Thursday in Diddle Arena.

HILLTOPPER HYPE

Lady Toppers showcase experienced group

BY JESSE SPENCER
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Hilltopper Hysteria started with a bang Thursday night when the WKU women's basketball team took the floor in Diddle Arena and showcased its scrappy brand of basketball.

The 2019-20 Lady Toppers completed a 12-minute Red vs. Black scrimmage in front of their faithful fans, and the Black team defeated the Red team for a 17-12 win.

The abbreviated scrimmage provided a sample of the experienced group of players that fans should expect to see this year on the Hill, which includes most of the contributors from the 2018-19 squad and several seasoned newcomers.

Second-year head coach Greg Collins began the night by issuing a warning to the Lady Topper faithful to not sit too close to the floor during games because his girls were going to play with a different energy this year.

Collins promised an exciting brand of basketball that focused on the defensive end and showcased the grit and hard work of his players.

"The focus this year has been on trying to solidify our defense and rebounding because those are the two biggest areas that we needed to improve on," Collins said.

All of Collins' players participated in the scrimmage except redshirt senior Alexis Brewer. She is expected to return this year, but the team is being patient with her rehabilitation process while she recovers from a labrum tear suffered late last season.

Redshirt senior Dee Givens led the Black team in scoring by drilling all three of her 3-pointers and being a strong leader on the defensive end. Junior Raneem Elgedawy held down the paint for the Red team by dropping in six points and allowing the offense to flow through her.

Junior Sherry Porter also had a strong performance for the Black team by tallying five points. Newly eligible Virginia Commonwealth transfer Sandra Skinner dropped in two points, while Mississippi transfer Bree Glover knocked down a free throw to round out the Black scoring.

Newcomer Fatou Pouye showed her aggression on offense by getting to the rack for four points for the Red team. Senior Whitney Creech totaled two points as well, looking calm and collected while facilitating the offense through strong passes and ball movement.

The Lady Toppers certainly didn't disappoint, as they showcased their intensity by blocking shots, securing rebounds and even diving on the floor in a frantic chase for a loose ball.

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Hilltopper newcomers shine at Hysteria

BY ELLIOTT WELLS
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The WKU men's basketball team won't play an exhibition game or begin its 2019-20 regular season slate until early November, but Hilltopper fans got a glimpse of head coach Rick Stansbury's latest collection of talent at Hilltopper Hysteria last Thursday.

The annual tip-off event featured the usual player introductions, autographs and scrimmages on John Oldham Court, but it also introduced a new format for the men's team scrimmage — the yearly Red vs. White game was snipped and integrated into a new-look scrimmage format.

The scrimmage featured two 12-minute halves, along with timeouts similar to a true game. Each half began with a 40-40 score, and teams changed between periods.

Stansbury was introduced on Thursday night for the fourth time as head coach of the Hilltoppers, and he said after the event that he wanted to integrate a full open scrimmage to bring tighter defense to Hilltopper Hysteria.

"Listen, I had to turn my head, close my eyes out the last couple of years to watch them go down the floor, just dunk and do what they want," Stansbury said. "I know who gets gains from that right there, the fans like to see them dunk

it. But we wanted to combine a little bit of both. We wanted to make it a scrimmage as much as we could."

"Making guys get better from it and it was very obvious for some players it was their first time playing in front of somebody. Some of those guys tightened up a little bit, but that's to be expected. So, there were some good things we got from it."

WKU fans welcomed six new faces to the Hill on Thursday night — a freshman trio and a group of three transfers from other institutions.

During the offseason, the Hilltoppers added freshmen Isaiah Cozart, Jackson Harlan and Jordan Rawls. Harlan and Rawls are expected to bring more depth at the guard position, while Cozart gives Stansbury another option at forward after several big men transferred.

Redshirt junior Carson Williams transferred to WKU in the fall of 2018 from Northern Kentucky, but he was forced to sit out during the entirety of the 2018-19 season to satisfy NCAA transfer rules. Joining the newly eligible Williams as transfers are Camron Justice and Kenny Cooper.

Justice joined the 2019-20 squad over the summer after graduating from IUPUI. Cooper also came to WKU over the summer after transferring from Lipscomb.

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WKU defense shows ability to overcome adversity

BY ALEC JESSIE
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The WKU football team (5-2, 4-0 C-USA) was locked in a tight battle with the upset-hopeful Charlotte 49ers (2-5, 0-3 C-USA) early in the game on Saturday, and it looked like the Hilltoppers might fall victim to a trap game after their big win over Army.

Early in the third quarter, the 49er offense had the ball and was driving, down only 20-14.

Junior cornerback Roger Cray made a seemingly good play to break up a pass and force an incompleteness. Instead, the officials threw a late flag for defensive pass interference.

The 15-yard penalty moved the ball from the Charlotte 37-yard line into WKU territory, and the dominant WKU defense was suddenly on its heels after a questionable call.

What happened on the very next play sums up the toughness that has been on display from the WKU defense through-

out the 2019 season.

Cray didn't let the penalty impact him, picking off Charlotte quarterback Chris Reynolds to give possession back to WKU. The Hilltopper defense pitched a shutout against the high-flying Charlotte offense from that point on, eventually skating to a 30-14 win.

Redshirt senior defensive back Ta'orian Darden said he was ecstatic for Cray and noted the defense wouldn't let negatives in the past impact what's to come.

"We like to have a next play mentality," Darden said. "I personally don't think if was a pass interference, but Roger Cray

came back with the next play. He didn't worry about it or argue with the ref or nothing. He just came back and got blessed with a pick. It was so exciting. His first game back, it was exciting. That was an exciting feeling right there."

Junior linebacker Kyle Bailey said it speaks volumes about the defense that

it can respond to challenges on the field in a positive manner.

"It says a lot," Bailey said. "Everyone knows you're going to face some adversity when you step on that football field. It's all about how you respond. You come back with a good attitude, good

things can happen. You back with a bad one, you can give up a game easily."

The defense has garnered a lot of attention this season, and deservedly so. Plays like Cray's have helped the defense turn the tide of a game in its favor. Head coach Tyson Helton said he couldn't be happier with the defense he gets to coach day in, day out.

"It's been a blast," Helton said. "I'm the happiest head coach in America. To sit there on the sidelines and watch those guys play the way they play, it allows me to change my mindset offensively. By the time we hit the second half, I've got a good feel for what they're capable of doing or if we're holding them pretty good. It helps me offensively, not to have to put the pedal to the metal all the time. It's fun to watch."

The WKU offense also showed signs of life against Charlotte, as the Hilltoppers finally hit some of the trick plays they hadn't been able to execute all year.

Graduate transfer quarterback Ty Storey connected with senior receiver

Linebacker
KYLE BAILEY

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