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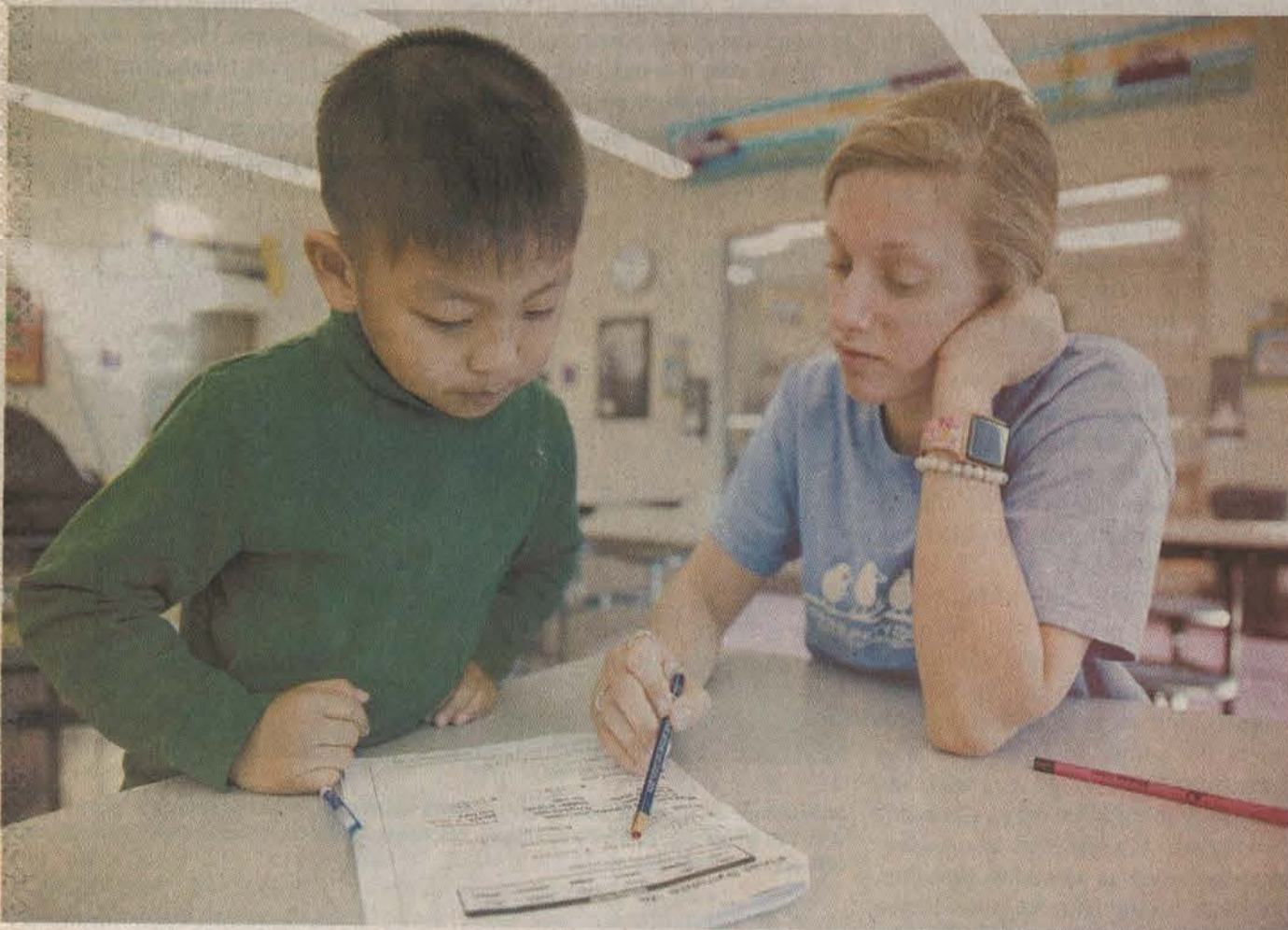
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College Heights Herald

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

VOLUME 93, ISSUE 29



ABIGAIL DOLLINS • HERALD

WKU freshman Mariah Williams helps Khup Sang, 7, on his vocabulary homework during the Dishman-McGinnis after school program Monday. "I've always had a passion for kids. I love teaching them and watching them grow," Williams said. "After school programs help the students make friends. There are times kids don't do homework at home and this is an opportunity for them to do that and extend their learning."

HAF has annual fund gap of over \$5 million

BY TYLER EATON

HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

The Hilltopper Athletic Foundation, a foundation that helps cover athletic program costs at WKU, is reporting a gap in funding of approximately \$5.5 million in the foundation's annual fund, according to the HAF donor guide. The annual fund is used to assist in paying the costs of student-athlete scholarships.

According to the HAF's donor guide, the foundation has seen about a 25 percent increase in annual fund revenue over the past five years. But the scholarship bill for student-athletes increased by about 35 percent in that same time period. The HAF claims that it fell \$6 million short of fulfilling the costs of student-athlete scholarships in 2016.

When the HAF annual fund falls short of covering the cost of scholarships for student-athletes, the funding for those scholarships must come from other sources, which includes school funding, according to the donor guide.

As previously reported, if the amount of funding being put towards athletics from the school decreases due to WKU's current budget deficit, the amount students have to pay to keep the program afloat could increase. Schools with comparable donor amounts in C-USA receive a large amount of their athletics funding from student fees.

According to a North Texas report that included every school in C-USA, WKU had the third-highest amount of annual fund contributions, wedged between Texas-San Antonio and Charlotte with \$2.5 million. According to a USA Today finance report, both UTSA and Charlotte had university athletic funding below \$5 million and student fees over \$10 million, with Charlotte's falling just below \$20 million in 2016. WKU athletics received \$4.12 million in student fees in 2016, according to the USA Today report.

WKU president Tim Caboni said in January that everything was "on the table" in regards to athletics funding and the university's \$40 million deficit.

WKU athletics has used HAF funds before to help avoid sinking the university's deficit further beyond its current \$40 million mark. The HAF is

THE REAL COST

Community Education faces \$1.9 million in funding cuts

BY EMILY DELETTER & SARAH YAACOUB

HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

The operation of a not-for-profit organization that provides care for children and enrichment activities for adults is in jeopardy of being cut because of the governor's proposed budget.

The elimination of Community Education is part of Gov. Matt Bevin's proposed budget which includes the elimination of 70 programs.

The before and after-school programs benefit more than 1,200 children in the Bowling Green-Warren County area, providing homework help, supervision, afternoon snacks and enriching activities to the children of working parents, many of whom have full-time jobs that prevent them from being able to be at home with their children directly before and after

school.

Patti Minter, history professor at WKU sent her son Alex to the after-school program at McNeill Elementary from kindergarten to fifth grade. She said because her son has Type 1 Diabetes, he wasn't allowed to attend similar programs because many of them do not accept children with developmental or medical disabilities.

Minter said the staff at Community Education offered her son alternative snacks and asked Minter to help teach the staff how to keep a child with Type 1 Diabetes safe while in school.

"I cannot say enough good things about this program, the staff, or how his experiences there made Alex feel empowered and included—and that he got to be just another kid in the program, not one who felt different," Minter said in an email. "They should be fully funded by the state budget going forward."

The Bowling Green program is the largest of the 95 Community Educa-

tion locations in Kentucky, said Erin Lightfoot, associate director. In addition to youth programs, Community Education offers a variety of classes for adults including dance, résumé workshops and Medicare assistance.

"It's a positive after-school experience for the kids," School-Age Programs Specialist Jarrod Shive said. "If they didn't have this program, they could be going home to an empty house."

About 85-90 percent of the 130 staff who work for the Bowling Green, Warren County program are WKU students, but the proposed cuts could result in a decrease in employment.

La Grange senior Alexander Reeves has worked as a one-on-one mentor at Community Education for only two weeks, but he said he really enjoys the opportunity to interact with the children.

"It's a really great opportunity for

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SEE HAF • PAGE A3

More educators and women run for office

BY EMMA COLLINS

HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU



When Donielle Lovell was a child, she never saw herself as a future politician. The New York native grew up watching family members participate in public office, but she saw her sense of service taking her in a different direction.

"It wasn't just my dad or my grandfather [in politics]; my aunt was a public official; my uncle, two of my cousins have both been public officials, but for some reason I never transferred that to myself," Lovell said.

However, Lovell, an associate professor of sociology at WKU's Elizabethtown Campus, is now stepping into the political arena and launching her first

campaign to win District 18's seat in Kentucky's House of Representatives.

As a woman and an educator, Lovell will not be alone in her campaign.

A record number of women, nearly 100, are running for Kentucky's General Assembly, according to a release from kentucky.gov. An increased number of educators have also filed to run, according to the release.

The decision to run comes during a time when some feel women's rights, such as access to abortion, have become threatened and funding for education continues to decrease. Kentucky currently has one abortion clinic open, and Gov. Matt Bevin has proposed 6.5 percent budget cuts for all state agencies.

Lovell said the increase in educators, which includes three WKU facul-

ty, campaigning for office shows how educators feel about the decisions that state has made about the education system.

"I think that says something in general about how educators are feeling about the direction the state and the hits that we've taken, that it's just really unfair," she said.

Lovell, the Democratic candidate running against incumbent Republican Rep. Tim Moore, said education was one of the reasons she decided to campaign. She said she was bothered by the comments she heard about the education system.

"At the state level within the last year, there have been so many inflammatory comments made about our teachers, our education, whether it's K-12, whether it's higher education,

you know that really, really disturbed me," Lovell said.

Lovell said education prompted her to consider running for office, but her platform also includes increasing workforce participation and finding solutions for drug addiction. She said District 18, which includes Grayson County and part of Hardin County, has a "pretty serious" workforce participation crisis that hasn't been helped by current policies. She said she has also seen the toll addiction takes on families and law enforcement.

Lovell said she doesn't have experience as a politician but her work as a sociologist focuses on community development and leadership, and she's

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OFFICE

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worked on projects that required her to organize the community. She said she's spent time focusing on Kentucky's policies and how to create public policy that serves the people. She said she understands making a decision involves thinking about the future, not just the present.

Patti Minter, a WKU history professor, is another WKU educator and woman running for office. Minter is running in District 20, which includes part of Warren County. She is one of five running to be the democratic candidate. She will campaigning for the seat left open by current Democrat Rep. Jody Richards' retirement, and the main part of her platform will be education.

"Education is the lifeblood of the state," Minter said.

Minter said she plans to focus on funding for the education system as well as the pension system. Bevin's proposed budget cuts are part of an attempt to help the state's underfunded pension system.

"A pension is a promise," Minter said. "Kentucky has made promises to its state employees from teachers to firefighters to police to city officials, and the promises must be kept, and they must be funded, not just for our current retirees and our current workers but also for our future workers so that we can continue to attract the best teachers we can have to lift the Commonwealth up and take it forward."

Minter said her platform also includes job growth.

Minter served as WKU's faculty regent for seven years and said this experience taught her how to "work across the aisle." She has also worked with the Fairness Movement in Bowling Green since 1999.

"Fighting for one's constituents is what every representative should do," she said. "My work with the Bowling Green Fairness Movement and working with the inaugural Pride Festival shows a long-term commitment to equal rights and human rights and the rights that should belong to us all, but it also shows my commitment to working for the people in this community."

Minter said those who may disagree

with her work with the Fairness Movement can view it as a testament to her persistence and dedication. She said she plans to campaign just as hard for everyone in the district.

"Everybody doesn't have to agree on everything, but I have the commitment to fight for people who need someone to bring their voice, whether it's to city hall or to Frankfort," Minter said.

Minter said she feels that she has to step up and fight for the people in her district and ensure they are heard in Frankfort. She said many people, primarily those in the middle and working classes, have suffered from state cuts, and Bevin's current proposed cuts will only continue to harm them.

"I want to make sure that we lift up every person in Kentucky," Minter said.

Like Lovell, Minter said she didn't grow up seeing herself as a future politician, but she has always had an interest in civil rights. She said she would not have filed to run for office if Richards had run again, but she felt a responsibility to run.

"At this moment, this is what I need to do," Minter said. "I stand with my fellow educators; I stand with other female candidates in the 'year of the woman,' but most of all I stand with all of the people in District 20 who have been represented very well, and I'm ready to fight for them; I'm ready to continue the tradition of excellent representation to Frankfort that Rep. Richards brought for 42 years in the 20th District, and I'm ready to fight for education, for pension promises to be kept and for jobs."

While Kentucky's pension crisis is part of Minter's platform, it is the central point of Brian Strow's platform. Strow, a WKU economics professor, is running against Rep. Michael Meredith for the Republican nomination. He hopes to represent District 19, which includes Edmonson County and part of Warren County.

"I'm an economist, and our state finances are some of the worst in the nation, so I think I have something to add in that area," he said.

Strow said he also plans to look at tax reform and ways to fill the hole in the pension system. He said as an educator, he also wants to fund-

ing for the education system.

Strow said despite his knowledge about the pension system, his primary reason for running for office is the behavior of Meredith, the district's current representative. Strow said information came out last year that alleged Meredith had been involved in a secret sexual harassment lawsuit settlement. Messages also surfaced showing inappropriate communication between him and a woman who was not his wife.

"It was after it became apparent that he has an inappropriate pattern of behavior that I decided to run for office," Strow said.

Strow said a campaign involves engaging in "voter outreach" by sending out mail, attending community events and speaking to groups. He said his campaign is still in its infancy, and he is working on setting up a website for his campaign.

All three candidates have created separate emails for handling their campaigns. Lovell said employees are not allowed to use WKU resources for their campaigns. When the College Heights Herald reached out to Lovell through her WKU email to request an interview, she replied using a Gmail account. Lovell said she uses her per-



CHRIS KOHLEY • HERALD

WKU economics professor Brian Strow teaches a lesson to his American Economic History class in Grise Hall Friday, Feb. 2. Strow is running for office to represent the 19th district of Kentucky's House of Representatives.

The Legislative Ethics Commission is investigating Meredith, and both the governor and members of Meredith's own party have called on Meredith to resign, Strow said.

"How he feels he can continue to be an effective leader for his constituents is beyond me," Strow said.

Strow said he does have experience serving in politics and serving in public office. He served two terms as a city commissioner, elected in 2004 and 2006. His run in 2004 was also prompted by the behavior of others. He said city officials at the time were covering up an embezzlement scandal. He campaigned in part to make the government more transparent.

sonal gmail account to separate herself as a private citizen running for office from her position at WKU.

"I feel like it's really important that I'm cognizant of those lines," Lovell said.

The primary elections, where both Strow and Minter will be listed on the ballots, will be held Tuesday, May 22. The general elections, where Lovell will be listed on the ballot, will be Tuesday, Nov. 6.

News reporter Emma Collins can be reached at 270-745-6011 and emma.collins399@topper.wku.edu. Follow Emma on Twitter at @mccain_emma.



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CHRIS KOHLEY • HERALD

WKU economics professor Brian Strow teaches a lesson to his American Economic History class in Grise Hall Friday, Feb. 2. Strow is running for office to represent the 19th district of Kentucky's House of Representatives.

EDUCATION

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students to be able to experience work in schools," said Reeves, who will return to WKU next fall to continue his major in elementary education.

As a one-on-one mentor, he aids in homework completion and organizes activities for his assigned student.

Parents pay a monthly fee of \$60 for before-school programs and \$125 for after-school care, Lightfoot said. With the exceptions of Parker-Bennett-Curry and Oakland elementary schools, which provide their own care, Community Education is present in every Bowling Green and Warren County elementary school, in addition to one program at Bowling Green Junior High.

Shive said Community Education serves families with a wide range of incomes, including the children of many WKU faculty and staff.

"It gives parents the opportunity to be at work and the stability to give back to Bowling Green economically and take care of their kids," Shelbyville senior and Community Education supervisor Ashley Hilger said.

Community Education receives \$1.9 million of annual state funding. The money is divided between the 95 programs across Kentucky, amounting to

a \$20,000 budget per program each year. This money primarily goes towards the full-time directors' salary.

Trimble, Kentucky, junior Madelyn Durand has been an advisor for Community Education for the past 1 1/2 years. Durand works at Jody Richards Elementary supervising up to 80 children every day.

"Parents have said to me that they really hope we don't lose this program because it's really great and one of the only ones that offers after school care," Durand said.

Lightfoot said the Community Education programs generate a nearly-\$20 million return on the state's annual investment. Without their state funding, programs across the state could close their doors.

"[Community Education] is a safe place for children," Hilger said. "The trouble and accidents that happen when kids are left alone after school are prevented."

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Mental health support groups help students

BY CHRIS DIMEO

HERALD.NEWS@WKU.EDU

College can be a stressful time as the student lifestyle can be busy and demanding in many ways. The stress of the college environment can cause mental illnesses to become more prevalent.

Having support networks is critical for college students struggling with mental illness, said New Albany, Indiana, sophomore Olivia Eiler.

This is a lesson she learned the hard way.

Eiler, who is now the director of Bowling Green's Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) and a reporter for the Herald, had friends on campus who she said supported her, so she never felt compelled to attend any kind of mental health support group during her first semester of college in fall of 2016.

"I kind of hit a bottom during that winter term," Eiler said.

By the end of the semester, she found herself in the hospital.

Jay Gabbard, a professor with the department of social work and facilitator of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Connections on-campus support group, said mental illness can cause a sense of isolation.

"A lot of students, when they're struggling with depression and anxiety, they feel like they're on an island," Gabbard said. "But I think it becomes worse when you're away from the people you traditionally leaned on for support."

About 36.4 percent of college students experience depression on some level, Eiler said, citing the Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors. The American Psychological Association additionally names anxiety as "the top presenting concern among college students," affecting about 41.6 percent of students worldwide.

Karl Laves, associate director of WKU's Counseling & Testing Center, said in an email that "It is hard to be sure how accurate these numbers are

when researching mental illness.

We know that people with mental illness often do not seek professional help," he said.

Eiler said she thinks some people may avoid talking about mental illness.

"I think a lot of people just don't talk about it," Eiler said. "I think a lot of people are afraid to admit they need help for something people can't physically see."

Gabbard's support group, NAMI Connections, gives students an opportunity to talk about their struggles with mental health for what may be the first time, he said.

The group meets every other Monday or every fourth Monday during the spring semester at 6 p.m. in the Academic Complex room 201. It is open to undergraduate, graduate and Gatton Academy students, regardless of whether the student has received an official diagnosis, he said.

Founded by and affiliated with the Bowling Green chapter of NAMI, the group is led by NAMI-trained and certified facilitators, including Gabbard himself.

The focus of the group's meetings is allowing students to share their experiences, hear the experiences of others and exchange contact information with those going through similar experiences in order to build up support networks, he said.

"One important thing to note is that this is not a therapy group, but rather a support group," he said.

He said the difference is support groups revolve around members providing "mutual support," rather than being directed entirely by a therapist.

Eiler, who now regularly attends the NAMI Connections meetings, said that while she had a supportive community of friends, what she lacked in her first semester were people who could identify with her struggles.

"That's where I think support groups for students can really come in," she said, "is getting to that person that knows—not exactly what they're going through, because everybody's different—but at least has a similar experience."



MICHEL NOBLE • HERALD

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SAM FLICK • HERALD

For Western Kentucky University and college campuses in general, Dr. Laves said, "About 20-25 percent of students will have a significant period of time where they are depressed or become depressed."

Eiler said attending the meetings has made a significant impact on her recovery from that difficult winter in 2016. During her time in the hospital, she said she attended support groups, and was encouraged to continue doing so upon returning to school so she wouldn't "fall down again."

She now leads her own support group as director of the entirely student-run DBSA Bowling Green chapter and gives talks on campus about key mental health issues.

The group meets every Wednesday at 4 p.m. in DSU 2058, and, despite its name, is open to all students, faculty, staff and members of the Bowling Green city community with any mental health struggle, whether diagnosed or undiagnosed.

NAMI and DBSA frequently encourage students to visit both groups, as well as the counseling center. The center, likewise, often refers students to the support groups in order to build on their progress in therapy, Laves said.

While the focus of these groups is on each individual's well-being, Eiler said, there are also stakes for WKU as a whole.

"A lot of universities talk about retention of students," Gabbard said. "Mental health issues are some of the most important issues in retaining students and students completing their degrees on time."

Eiler cited a faculty member on the Tuition/Schedule Change Fee Appeal Committee, which approves or rejects tuition refunds for students who could not complete the semester due to extenuating circumstances, who told her that by far the most common reason students appeal to the committee is that depression prevents them from doing coursework or staying in school.

The presence of mental illness can also cause a decline in GPA, she said. She referenced research showing that students experiencing a combination of depression and anxiety can see a drop of 0.5 GPA points on average.

"[Mental illness] is really an important issue on college campuses," Gabbard said. "And I think it needs to get more attention than it does."

News reporter Chris DiMeo can be reached at 270-745-6011 and chrisdimeo024@topper.wku.edu.

HAF

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providing the funding for basketball head coach Rick Stansbury's \$150,000 raise.

HAF executive board member and donor Craig Browning acknowledged the shortage in the annual fund, but said that making sure WKU is competitive in athletics would help narrow the gap.

"What everyone has to keep in mind is, there's a much better probability that you'll be able to make up that gap if you have success in athletics," Browning said. "I think that we're in as good a position as I've seen us in 20 years or more ... wholistically, when you can have broad success, that broad success brings more value than just an isolated sport."

Browning said that alumni will be more likely to donate if the programs are successful, and in order to close that gap through success, WKU has to hire and retain good coaches like Stansbury.

The HAF is a group of over 2,000 donors that donate to cover the costs of the university's athletic spending. These donations help cover the cost of scholarships, facilities and recruiting, among other things, according to the HAF website.

WKU has won 23 conference championships in C-USA, including confer-

ence championships in football in late 2016 and conference championships in volleyball in both 2016 and 2017. In 2017, the HAF closed the gap to about \$5.5 million, according to the HAF donor guide, which covered about 20 percent of scholarship costs last year.


While the HAF was designated as the source of funding for Stansbury's raise, they will also likely be called upon to help fund planned renovations to both Houchens-Smith Stadium and Diddle Arena.

The renovations, projected to cost a combined \$2.4 million, are pegged to be completed before the next football and basketball seasons begin, per a Bowling Green Daily News report.

According to that same report, athletic director Todd Stewart hopes to pay for the project "completely" with private funds.

Unless the HAF sees a massive spike in donors and donations in upcoming years, the university is going to have to find a way to fill the gap being left between how much the HAF is providing for scholarships and how much is needed. If WKU has to cut athletics funding, the HAF missing nearly 80 percent of the student-athlete scholarship funding would likely mean the students have to pay the bill.

Reporter Tyler Eaton can be reached at 270-776-6797 and tylereaton1022@yahoo.com. Follow him on Twitter at [@Tyler_eaton1022](https://twitter.com/Tyler_eaton1022)



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Since the residential counselors must work closely with gifted young people and are expected to serve as positive adult role models for these students, individuals selected for these positions must:

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5. Have recreational interests/skills that can be shared with young people.

Upon selection, the individual is responsible for submitting a criminal background check.

Residential Counselors will live in the residence hall with the SCATS and VAMPY students and will work seven days a week. The salary is \$350 per week plus room and meals.

To apply, complete an application and upload a resume at wku.edu/gifted/camp_counselor.php. For more information, contact The Center for Gifted Studies at (270) 745-6323 or gifted@wku.edu.

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OPINION

SPARSH'S PICK

Start your day off on the right track

BY SPENCER HARSH
HERALD.OPINION@WKU.EDU

Mornings for students are typically the worst, especially in the beginning of the spring semester. The mornings are cold and maybe you're not ready for classes again. Getting ready for the day and making your way to class can be tedious.

One thing that can always help your morning be more than a cold walk to the top of the Hill is music. Grab your headphones, your jacket and your books and check out these five tracks:

"It's time to take my mask off" (ft. cat) by biosphere - This lo-fi track is a remix of Future's "Mask Off" dubbed onto a chill beat track. Soft acoustic guitar licks and a nice tempo accompany the infamous rap track. Definitely a fun track to walk to or just play in the background while you study.

"Chilly" by NIKI - This track might feature some bittersweet breakup lyrics, but the overall tone and beat make this track spectacular. NIKI is a recent sign-up for record label 88rising, a production company that has recently helped make several Asian and Asian-American hip-hop and rap artists popular. The track does a callback to '90s style beats while keeping things new with somber lyrics and minor piano accents.

"Classic Battle" by Sam Spence - If your morning consists of a run, you may want to consider this track. Sam Spence primarily wrote music for films and athletic films. While this track is purely instrumental with a classic-style orchestra, something about it is bound to get your blood pumping.

"If We Were Ghosts" by Of Mice & Men - While OM&M is usually known for intense songs with pounding drums, shredding guitars and the booming voice of Austin Carlile, this track is a step away from their regular style. Coming from their newest album, "Defy", listeners will find a mellow but upbeat tempo, soft vocals and some dynamic acoustic guitar work.

"Pulaski at Night" by Andrew Bird - Coming from American songwriter and violinist Andrew Bird, this track is an amazing composition of folk blended with a hint of pop. The lyrics are catchy, the violin work is melodic and the soft drums in the background tie the whole song together. This track is great for a drive around town or a walk around campus.



ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY VOGLER • HERALD

POLITICAL ANOMALIES

Understanding the LGBTQ Right

BY ERICK MURRER

HERALD.OPINION@WKU.EDU

Celebrity and trans icon Caitlyn Jenner once quipped during the 2016 U.S. presidential election that, "It was easy to come out as trans. It was harder to come out as a Republican." And she's not wrong when pointing out the stark contrast between her political ideology compared to the rest of the LGBTQ community: only 14 percent of LGBTQ voters casted their vote in favor of Donald Trump.

But Donald Trump was a different kind of Republican candidate. The first GOP presidential candidate to speak about LGBTQ issues at the Republican National Convention, he was also the first to unfurl a rainbow pride flag at a political rally.

That's what led former WKU student Zach Steward, a gay man, to, "... look into Trump's views." He said he "wasn't convinced that Trump was a homophobic, tyrannical bigot."

Steward identifies as a right-leaning libertarian, and values advocacy for individual liberty, something he believes Conservatives and Democrats fall short in. "I don't subscribe to collectivist ideas. The individual is the smallest minority," Steward said.

Various minority groups among ethnic and LGBTQ lines are mostly perceived as reliable voting blocs for the Democrat-

ic Party, so it's a rarity when a member from one of these minority communities breaks away from the status quo.

For this, Steward has sometimes felt alienated in LGBTQ spaces. As a student, he once participated in a focus group on LGBTQ issues and noted that, "while it wasn't hostile or anything, my opinions were looked down upon. I learned to keep my mouth shut."

Catelyn Stanley, a mechanical engineering major, has also been met with confusion when sharing her political beliefs, exclaiming, "I'm very visibly queer so people just assume I'm a Democrat. A lot of people tell me, 'Oh, you're a Republican and you're gay?' That's a bit contradicting."

As a queer, liberal Republican woman, Stanley has been frustrated by the connotations associated with being Republican. While Steward and Stanley are both in favor of gay marriage and are socially liberal, they maintain that they are not single-issue voters.

Steward described what guides his political beliefs, citing that he cares most about where his money is going. "I want to know what the government is getting into. Why are we giving so much in foreign aid? Why are we getting involved in the affairs of squabbling nations overseas?"

Stanley said that while she of course supports a pro-LGBTQ platform, she feels that fiscal issues ought to take prec-

edent because, "as a whole, [fiscal issues] have a greater impact on more people."

While they are both right-leaning, Steward and Stanley had very different takeaways from the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Steward voted for Trump, as he was unimpressed with the tepidity of the Clinton and Johnson campaigns. Moreover, he called Trump a "breath of fresh air" on economic and immigration issues.

Catelyn, on the other hand, did not vote in the election, citing Pence as being the biggest contributing factor to her non-vote. She also points to climate change and reproductive health issues as areas where she has major disagreements.

"Donald Trump is making the U.S. look like a joke," she said.

But as anti-LGBTQ stigma in the U.S. slowly fades away, new political realities held by LGBTQ peoples begin to form. "I definitely give props to the Left for championing LGBTQ [inclusion]. But today in 2018, I don't identify as a Democrat. Things have changed," Steward said.

Stanley hopes that people realize that, "Just because you're Republican doesn't mean you're stereotypically conservative." Although LGBTQ voters on the Right might feel like political anomalies, Steward emphasized that, "we [right-leaning voters] are not confused. We just disagree [with Democrats]. And that's okay."

BOOK CLUB

Read these books instead of going outside

BY MONICA KAST

HERALD.OPINION@WKU.EDU

Let's be real - winter weather is terrible and unpredictable. There's a few more weeks of winter left, so while it's still cold (or rainy or windy, depending on the day), put the Netflix fireplace movie on loop, cozy up with a mug of something warm and pick up one of these books.

"Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng

This was by far the best book that I read last year, and it lived up to all of the hype it got in literary circles. Ng tells the story of two families whose lives intertwine in the idyllic and precisely planned town of Shaker

Heights, Ohio. The book opens with the wealthier of the families standing outside their home that has been set on fire and the other family leaving in the middle of the night. Ng weaves together the two families in unimaginable ways and tells stories about love and impossible decisions that we have to make. The book has something to draw everyone in: mystery, love (both familial and romantic) and questioning what it means to follow the rules. I fell in love with Ng's writing and the characters she created, and I've thought about this book nearly every day since I read it.

"The Georgetown Ladies Social Club" by C. David Heymann

If you're like me and you saw "The Post" and can't stop thinking about it, this is the book for you. It tells the stories of "power, passion and politics in

the nation's capital" through the eyes of some of the most powerful women who lived there toward the end of the 20th century. Katharine Graham is one of the women that the book focuses on, and after learning more about her family and husband, you'll want to buy another ticket to see "The Post" again. The author dives into female friendships and power dynamics of women whose names you may be unfamiliar with but whom you won't soon forget.

(A note: if you're looking to dive even deeper into who Katharine Graham was and the powerhouse she became, her autobiography "Personal History" is an excellent read as well.)

"One More Thing: Stories and Other Stories" by B.J. Novak

Although this book of short stories came out a few years ago, I didn't read it until winter break. Novak, who you

probably know as Ryan from "The Office" or the probable father of Mindy Kaling's baby, delivers a great mix of short stories. You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll think, "How in the world does someone come up with the idea to write this?" Stories range from a few pages to a few lines long, including a story about how to become Kate Moss and how to move on, both of which made me laugh out loud. And if you think it's easy to make me laugh out loud, you're wrong. I frequently tell men that they are not funny. But B.J. Novak is not one of those men, and I like this book. Another standout story is about a young boy who wins \$100,000 in a box of Frosted Flakes, only to uncover a family secret while trying to claim the prize. This book was nothing like I expected, but I was pleasantly surprised by it.

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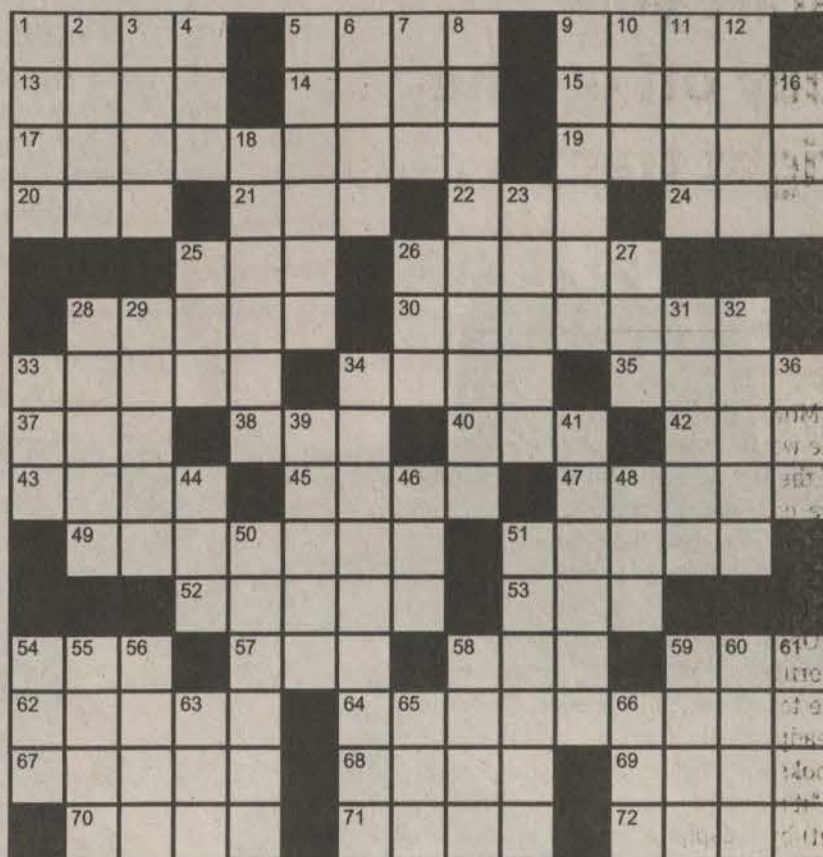
- What year was the Magna Carta signed?
(a) 1614 (b) 1215 (c) 1066
- To which order did Martin Luther belong?
(a) Augustinian (b) Dominican (c) Franciscan
- Who died at the Battle of Trafalgar?
(a) Francis Drake (b) Horatio Nelson (c) Napoleon Bonaparte
- What explorer is said to have discovered Guam?
(a) Balboa (b) Cortes (c) Magellan
- Who was the first official victim of the guillotine during the
French Revolution?
(a) Nicholas-Jacques Pelletier (b) Marie Antoinette (c) Jean
Paul Marat
- When was Carthage destroyed?
(a) 44 A.D. (b) 215 B.C. (c) 149 B.C.
- Ireland was first declared a republic in what year?
(a) 1922 (b) 1949 (c) 1936
- What musical instrument was invented in Florence, Italy in
1700?
(a) Fortepiano (b) Harp (c) Timpani drum
- When did Austria regain full sovereignty after World War II?
(a) 1960 (b) 1948 (c) 1955
- The collapse of which empire signalled the onset of the Dark
Ages?
(a) Ottoman (b) Roman (c) Greek

Solution

1. b 6. c
2. a 7. b
3. b 8. a
4. c 9. c
5. a 10. b

Across

- One Maverick
- Clump
- Drudgery
- Crepe cookie
- Vociferate
- Stair part
- Outlaw
- Antipasto morsel
- Absorb, as a cost
- Thai river
- Reporter's question
- Turf
- Legendary Giant
- Ratify
- Camp craft
- Hoosergows
- Billiards bounce
- Nile wader
- Wear a long face
- "Days of ___ Lives"
- Prohibit
- Ordinal suffix
- Fortify
- Peter the Great, e.g.
- Coffee choice
- Philippine banana tree
- Blight
- Garden tool
- More despicable
- Select
- Stars and Stripes land
- Game with matchsticks
- Fizzle out
- Pouch
- Bit of parsley
- Forever
- Colonel's insignia



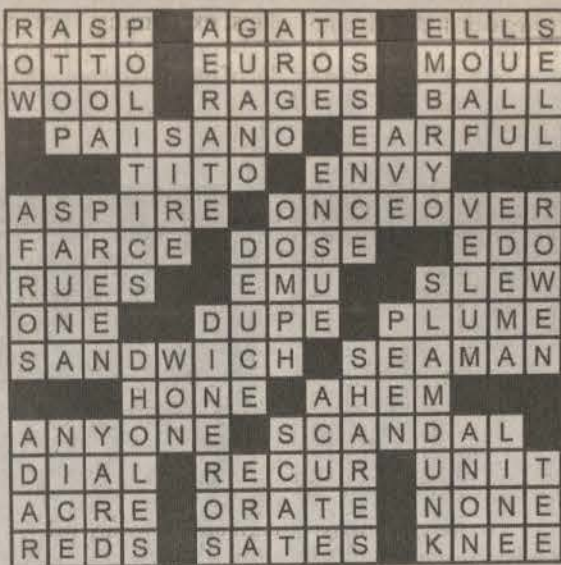
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- Bridge site
- Teeth holders
- Snatched
- Kindergartener
- Start with while
- Texas tea
- Egyptian fertility goddess
- To the left (Prefix)
- It's called gules in heraldry
- Put away, in a way
- Raise
- Warbler Yoko
- Police alert, for short
- Barnyard male
- Induce
- Orderly grouping
- Bedouin
- Elbowroom
- Red Cross supply
- Orderly increase
- Old Spanish queen
- Garlicky sauce
- Transpire
- Gun, as an engine
- Sonnet ending
- Nocturnal mammal
- Seared
- Lively party
- "It's no ___!"
- Squabble
- Ship to Colchis
- Secretary, for one
- Aspersions
- Handouts
- Skin problem
- Down and out?
- Part of a Happy Meal
- Ripen

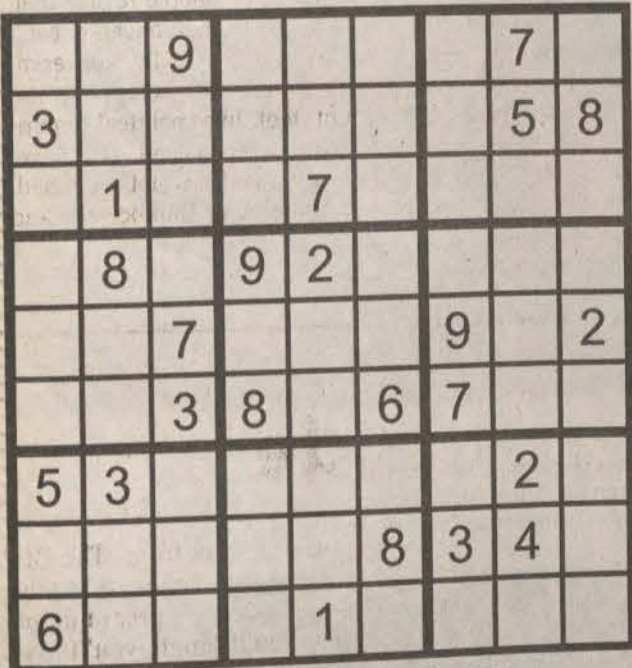
Down

- Presage
- District
- Medical advice, often
- Apex
- Spin around
- Thin
- Outdated
- Like hair at a salon
- Scout groups

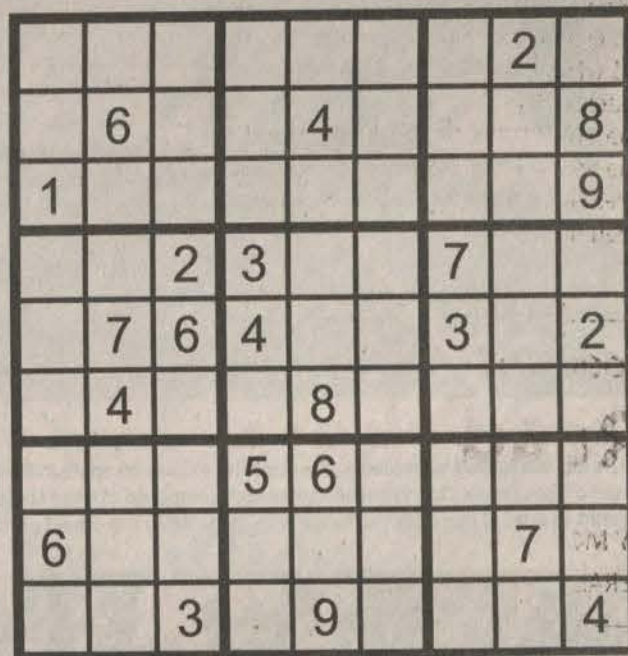
PREVIOUS SOLUTION



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



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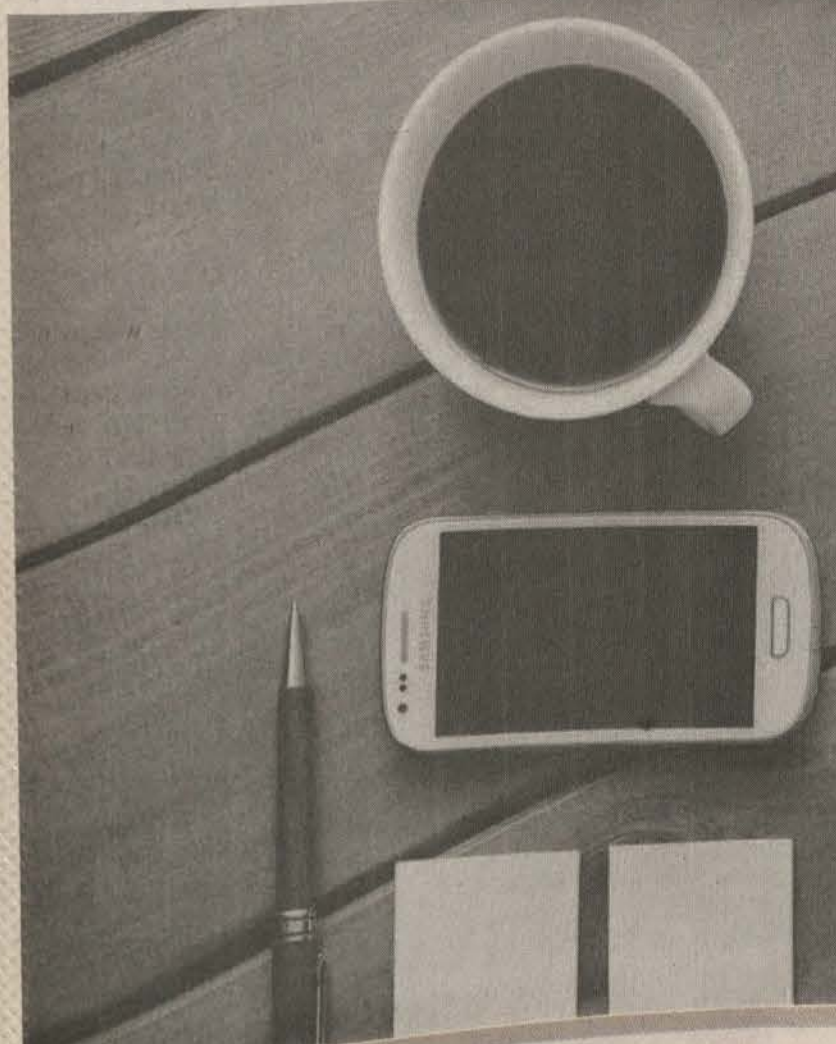


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PHOTO



LYDIA SCHWEICKART • HERALD

Parker Teeter lifts a barbell during the Crossfitting 4 Cures competition at Preston Center on Feb. 3. Teeter has been doing crossfit for three years, and came to the competition from Nashville with his team "Two and a Half Men."

CROSSFIT FOR A CAUSE

BY SILAS WALKER
HERALD.PHOTO@WKU.EDU

Athletes from Kentucky and the surrounding area came together to push themselves mentally

and physically during the 8th annual Crossfitting 4 Cures event that took place in the Preston Center on Saturday, Feb. 3. Competitors worked in teams to compete in four different events. Crossfitting 4 Cures started in 2011 and is

put on by CrossFit Old School to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. According to the Crossfitting 4 Cures website, CrossFit Old School and its' member have donated \$83,000 to the research hospital.



LYDIA SCHWEICKART • HERALD

The top five ranked male teams at Crossfitting 4 Cures compete in the final heat to determine the winners of the competition. The teams were each composed of three competitors, the first of which had to sprint to a set of dumbbells and lunge with them, while the other two members held a partner deadlift.



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

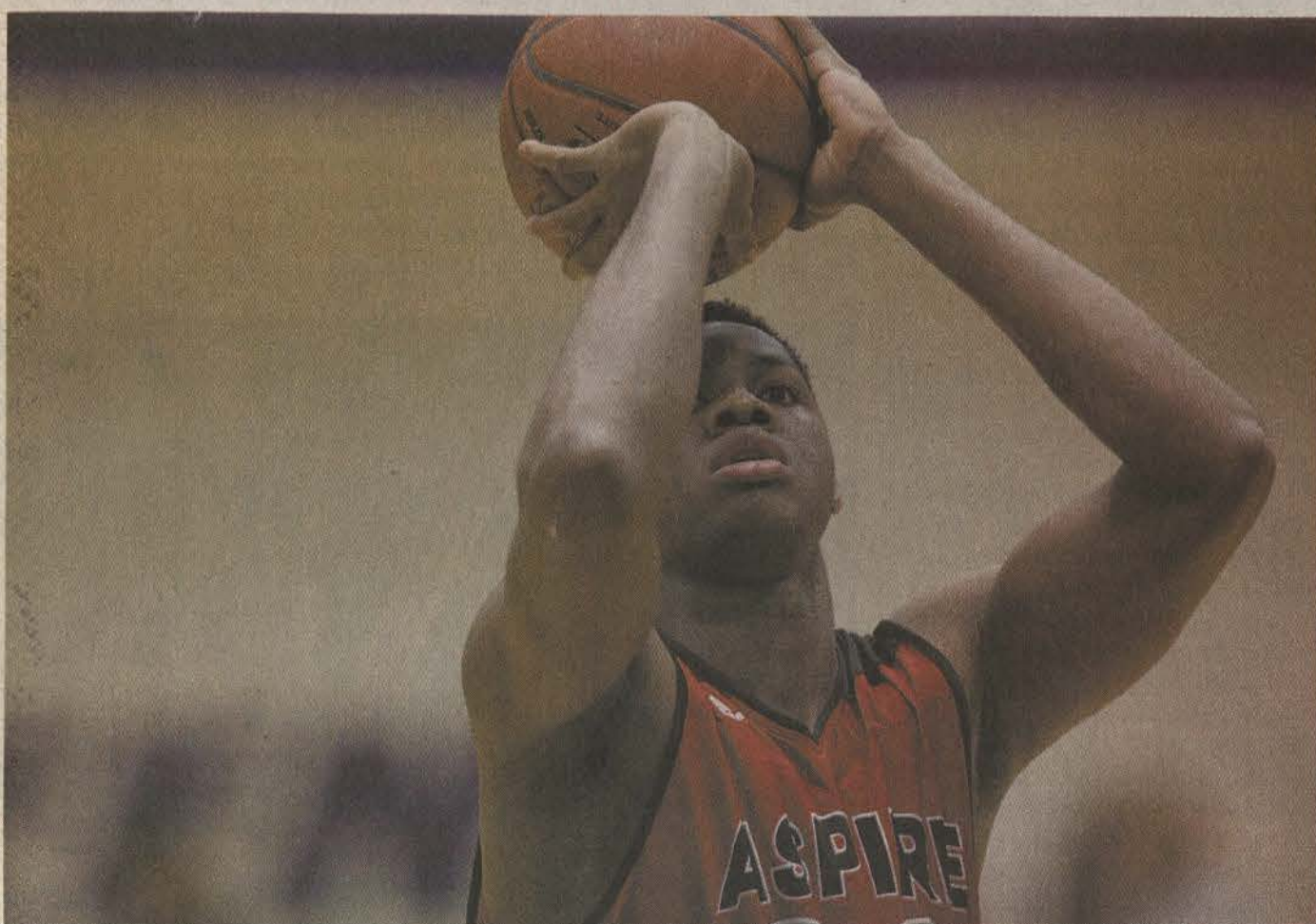
Jasmy Brooks celebrates with her teammate Trisha Scott during the annual Crossfitting 4 Cures that took place in the Preston Center on Feb. 3. The event raised money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Brooks is from Mount Juliet Tennessee and has been crossfitting for two years.



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

Athletes compete in the last event of the the annual Crossfitting 4 Cures which took place in the Preston Center on Feb. 3 to raise money for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Crossfitting 4 Cures started in 2011 and is put on by CrossFit Old School and has raised \$83,000 since its conception.

SPORTS



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

High school recruit Charles Bassey (23) shoots a free throw during a tournament at Bowling Green High School, on Feb. 3. Bassey plays for Aspire Academy and is considering playing for WKU when he graduates.

DOWN TO THE WIRE

Bassey could mend five-star heartbreak

BY JEREMY CHISNEHALL
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

Mitchell Robinson was the best player to ever commit to WKU in the modern recruiting era. Until he wasn't.

The seven-foot center was the No. 9 player in the class of 2017, the No. 1 center and the No. 2 player in the state of Louisiana. His commitment had Hilltopper fans dreaming of dominating Conference USA and going to the NCAA Tournament, and given how well the Hilltoppers have played thus far in the 2017-18 season without Robinson, they probably would've done just that.

Former Sports Editor Evan Heichelbech and myself have written more words than I can count about Robinson (although I believe Heichelbech counted them all up at one point). His arrival, his desertion, his return and, ultimately, his final departure became the Mitchell Robinson Saga. It was perhaps the most unique recruitment the college basketball landscape has ever seen.

It was a devastating loss for the program, but something that head coach Rick Stansbury wasn't unfamiliar with. While he was head coach at Mississippi State, Stansbury got commitments out of five-star prospects Jonathan Bender, Travis Outlaw and Monta Ellis. And not a single one of them played a game at A&M. They instead went straight to the NBA, which Robinson will also do after a year of preparation outside of college basketball.

Despite the loss of the class' only five-star player, Stansbury still assembled the conference's best recruiting class with Kentucky's Mr. Basketball Taveion Hollingsworth and four-star guard Josh Anderson, as well as several transfer players with NCAA Tournament experience.

Stansbury preaches continuity in recruiting, and less than two seasons in at WKU he's starting to get it. But now he's got a chance to add to that continuity with a shot of star power, putting his and his program's five-star struggles to an end with Charles

SEE DOWN TO THE WIRE • PAGE B2

POTENTIAL

WKU target shines in local tournament

BY ALEC JESSIE
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

WKU's top priority for the 2019 recruiting class showcased his talents to Bowling Green over the weekend. Even with a bunch of talent playing in the Hoopin on the Hill tournament at Bowling Green High School, Aspire Academy's Charles Bassey stood out as one of the best all-around players at the event.

In the two games Aspire competed in, Bassey averaged 12.5 points, 15.5 rebounds, 2.5 assists, 2.5 blocks and 1.5 steals. With his contributions all across the stat sheet, Aspire Academy won the Grind Session, defeating Believe Prep on Friday and Bella Vista Prep on Saturday.

"It was a really good performance," Bassey said. "Me and my team try to come out strong from the beginning of the game to the end of the game. We just make sure we get the lead and hold onto it."

Aspire Academy head coach Jeremy Kipness loves Bassey's team-first mindset, which certainly impacted his statistical output.

"What's so special about him is the fact that he's such a team player," Kipness said. "When we

"He's our glue guy," Kipness said. "We go as he goes."

Even though Bassey is ranked in the top three of the 2019 class, his game is still maturing and improving.

"He's far from a finished product,"

"WKU plays hard and they play fast. I think it fits the style of play that he plays best in."

Aspire Academy Head Coach
JEREMY KIPNESS

need a bucket, he's going to create and finish. But he's such a good passer which opens up so many opportunities for everyone outside on the perimeter."

His importance to Aspire is unquestioned, according to the head coach.

Kipness said. "He's concerned with his development. He wants to get better every single day. It's just about building upon his strengths."

Bassey has made sure to fine-tune all the aspects of his game throughout his junior year at Aspire

SEE CHARLES BASSEY • PAGE B2

Stansbury wants more effort following tough road trip

BY SAM PORTER
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

WKU has hit a rough patch in conference play following a difficult road stretch. A difficult win over Texas El-Paso and a loss to Texas-San Antonio has left the Hilltoppers at 2-2 over the last four conference games.

Following a 6-0 start in C-USA play, WKU fell at home to rival Middle Tennessee who is now in first place in C-USA. The Hilltoppers

redeemed themselves by defeating Marshall again, but WKU struggled on the road last week. On Thursday, WKU trailed a struggling UTEP team for the majority of the game before pulling away late for a 12-point victory. Saturday, WKU suffered a 74-63 loss to UTSA, the team's biggest loss of the season to a team that has just a 13-11 record. Following the loss, head coach Rick Stansbury said he sensed his team didn't play with the effort and toughness he had seen throughout the season.

"When you don't respect your opponent the right way, this is

"When you don't respect your opponent the right way, this is what can happen"

Head Coach
RICK STANSBURY

what can happen," Stansbury said. "Winning and losing is a fine line. I

can take getting beat, that is a part of the game. But [Saturday] we didn't have that effort and toughness you have to have to win on the road."

Graduate transfer forward Dwight Coleby and senior forward Justin Johnson have ultimately been the heart and soul of WKU's basketball team throughout the season. Johnson is averaging 14 points and a team best 9.6 rebounds per game, and Coleby isn't far behind averaging 12.3 PPG and 8.7 RPG. In the two games vs. UTEP and UTSA, the two were often doubled when the ball was thrown underneath. Johnson didn't score until the

SEE MBB ENTERPRISE • PAGE B2

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B2 SPORTS

CHARLES BASSEY
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Academy and is seeing some improvement himself.

"I work on my ball-handling and my rebound skills," Bassey said. "I've been shooting the ball a lot better this year. I got to work on my weaknesses and make them my strengths."

Bassey said that a couple weekends prior to Hoopin on the Hill, he took an unofficial visit to WKU. He said

it went very well and he thinks very highly of the Hilltoppers.

"It was great," Bassey said. "I mean it's a good school with a good fan base and good coach. It was great, man."

As the recruitment of the junior class heats up, there is clear interest between Bassey and WKU. Kipness touched on how Bassey might fit into Rick Stansbury's roster in 2019.

"Western Kentucky does a lot of great things," Kipness said. "They play hard and they play fast. I think

it fits the style of play that he plays best in."

On 247 Sports, three experts, including recruiting guru Andrew Slater, have picked WKU to land Bassey.

But as of now, Bassey's recruitment is wide open. In addition to WKU, Baylor, Kansas, UCLA, Texas A&M, Boston College, California and Louisiana State have offered him a scholarship, and he has also taken an unofficial visit to UK. Bassey has no visits scheduled for the near

future and has no list of favorite programs. He does not appear to have much of a recruiting timeline and is nowhere near a decision.

Aspire Academy squares off against Orangeville Prep (Canada) in their next game at Seneca High School on Feb. 9.

Sports reporter Alec Jessie can be reached at 502-648-7190 and alec.jessie226@topper.wku.edu. Follow Alec on Twitter at @Alec_Jessie.

MBB ENTERPRISE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

second half against UTSA while Coleby was held to just seven points. The Hilltoppers were also out-rebounded 47-38 in the loss.

"I can take the not shooting it well, missing shots and free throws. It happens," Johnson said. "But we got beat to the loose balls, the offensive glass, we got beat in the hard work and physicality of the game and that is what is frustrating."

One positive take-away from the Texas roadtrip was the performance of freshman guard Taveion Hollingsworth. With so much pressure on Johnson and Coleby underneath, the guards were often open on several kick-outs from the paint. Hollingsworth hit five 3-pointers in the second half of WKU's comeback win over UTEP. The Lexington product also led WKU with 21 points in the loss to

UTSA. Down the stretch, teams will likely continue to put pressure on WKU's guards to score by focusing so much attention on Coleby and Johnson underneath.

"I needed to step up because Dwight and Justin were getting doubled so much," Hollingsworth said following the UTEP win. "When I'm over in the corner they skip it to me, and I have to shoot it. We all share the ball and nobody is selfish. It's fun to play with a team like that."

WKU currently sits at 16-7 (8-2 C-USA) which places them in a tie for second place with Old Dominion in the C-USA standings. The Hilltoppers take on Florida Atlantic (10-13, 4-7 C-USA) Thursday in Diddle Arena.

Reporter Sam Porter can be reached at 270-799-8247 and sam.porter270@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter at @SammyP14.



SILAS WALKER • HERALD
WKU guard Darius Thompson (15) attacks the basket for a layup during WKU's game vs. Nicholls State on Nov. 19, 2017 in Diddle Arena. WKU won 100-86.

DOWN TO THE WIRE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Bassey.

Bassey, who just helped the Aspire Academy win the Hooping on the Hill tournament at Bowling Green High School last weekend, is the No. 2 center in the class of 2019 and the No. 3 overall player in his class, according to 247 Sports.

At 6-10, 220 lbs, Bassey pretty closely resembles the frame of the

briefly-former Hilltopper Robinson.

After Bassey moved from San Antonio to Louisville, the Hilltoppers became the early favorite for him among recruiting experts. He made an unofficial visit to WKU Jan. 18, but Stansbury and his staff are already in a battle with other major programs across the nation. Bassey holds offers from Kansas, UCLA, Louisiana State, Texas A&M (where Stansbury was formerly an assistant) and a few other Power 5 programs.

It's a good sign that Stansbury is in early on Bassey. The one-and-done rule will assure that he can't jump to the NBA immediately after high school like Bender, Ellis and Outlaw did, and the fact that WKU has already managed to become the favorite for him hopefully is a sign that he won't be as indecisive about the Hill as Robinson ended up being.

In an era where recruiting statuses can change in the blink of an eye or the sending of a tweet, it's a bit early

to start talking about 2019's second-best center being a Hilltopper. But the groundwork has been laid for Stansbury to land WKU's first five-star prospect in the modern recruiting era.

Sports Editor Jeremy Chisenhall can be reached at 859-760-0198 and jeremy.chisenhall921@topper.wku.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @JSchisenhall.

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Meet the Browns: Brown duo leading Lady Toppers

BY TYLER MANSFIELD
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

After Kendall Noble and Micah Jones played their final games as Lady Toppers March 17, 2017, in a loss to Ohio State in the 2017 NCAA Tournament, Ivy Brown and Tashia Brown - both juniors at the time - knew they had to immediately step up and fill the voids that the pair of veterans in front of them left. And that's exactly what the senior duo has done in 2017-18.

"I mean, you look around and look at all the pieces that we don't have from last year," WKU women's basketball head coach Michelle Clark-Heard said. "(Tashia) and Ivy have worked really hard to help this program get to where we're at right now. They were ready for this moment. They're just stepping up to the plate."

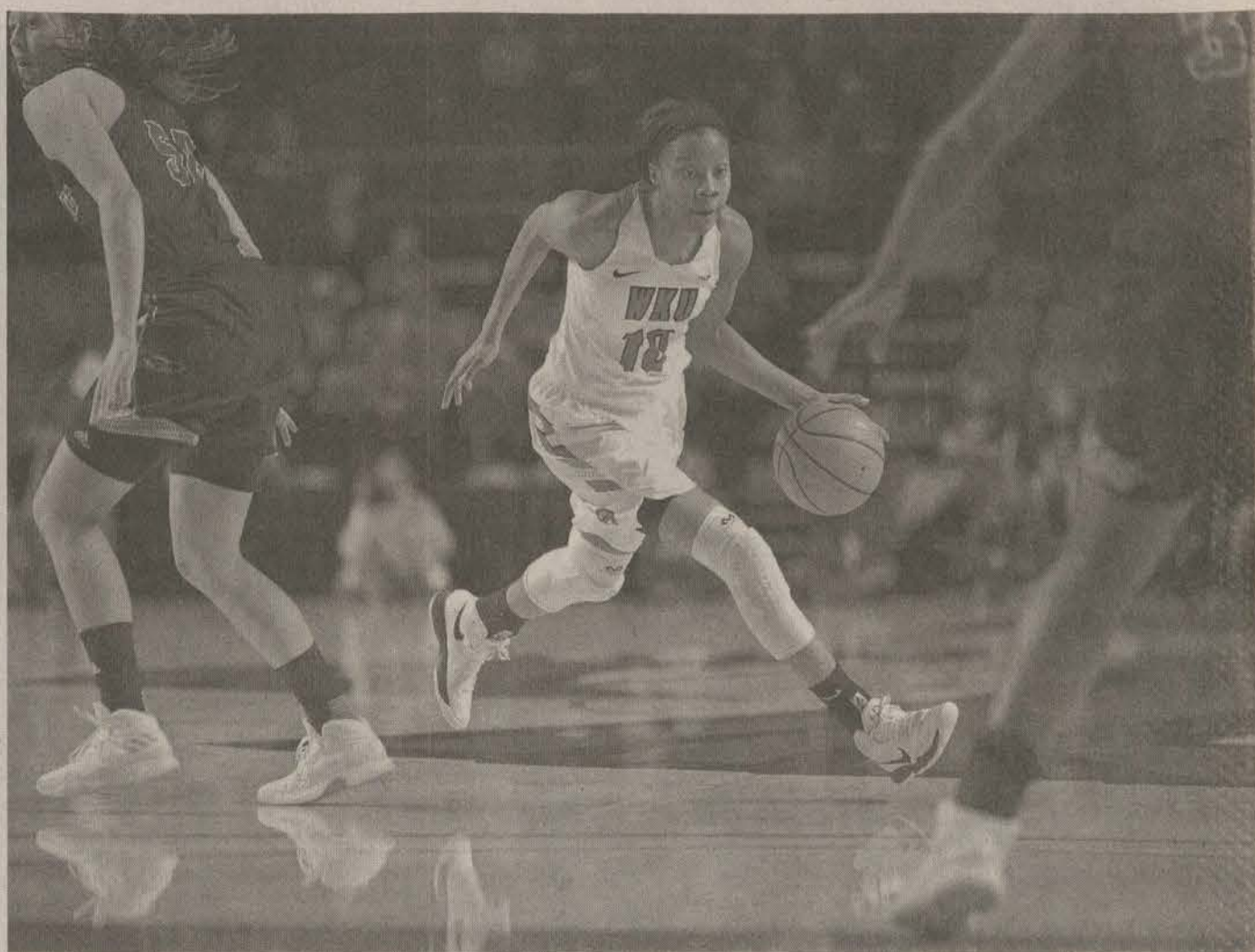
Tashia and Ivy, often referred to as "The Browns," are teammates, best friends and pretty much sisters, but not by blood. The two both arrived to the Hill at the same time and have built an unbreakable bond both on and off the court.

As their friendship away from basketball is just as special, their connection as Lady Topper players is what has caught the attention of many, as the duo has had quite the career in the red and white.

Over the course of their four-year runs at WKU, Tashia has averaged 14.9 points per game, while Ivy has produced 10.4 points and 7.1 rebounds in 125 total games. Those numbers have only increased this season, as Tashia is leading all of Conference USA with 23.2 PPG and Ivy is averaging a double-double of 16.2 points and 10.0 rebounds.

Tashia's play this year has definitely not gone unnoticed.

"I think Tashia can do a lot of things that a lot of players at that elite level - Power 5 that everyone talks about - can definitely do," Clark-Heard said. "When she's rebounding this way, when she's able to get steals and she's able to score by getting to the basket or making her pull-up, I think she's very dangerous ... she's really special."



SHABAN ATHUMAN • HERALD

WKU Forward Tashia Brown (10) drives the ball during the Lady Toppers 82-63 win over Florida Atlantic on Feb. 3 at Diddle Arena. Brown lead the team in scoring with 25 points.

One of the top scoring threats in Lady Topper history, she now ranks seventh on WKU's all-time scoring list and has already surpassed hall of famers Clemette Haskins, ShaRae Mansfield and Kami Thomas.

Most recently, Tashia was named one of 10 finalists for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame's 2018 Cheryl Miller Award, which is presented annually to the top Division I small forward in the nation.

"Tashia's a great player, and night-in and night-out she's scoring 25," Ivy said of her teammate and best friend. "Her ability to score is just pure. I haven't re-

ally seen anyone like her be able to score like that and shoot her pull-up. She has the best pull-up in the country that I've seen. I'm just really excited for her."

Although Tashia receives much praise for the way she performs, Ivy is right beside her.

Ivy has had an outstanding senior campaign, as she has already recorded 11 double-doubles this year, which is the most she's had in a season since becoming a Lady Topper. She currently leads C-USA in rebounding and ranks sixth in scoring.

"I know we talk a lot about Tashia, but Ivy's right up there too," Clark-Heard

said. "That's the reason why we're winning and where we're at right now at 8-1 in the conference because day-in and day-out Ivy Brown shows up, no matter what."

"These will be two of the best players to go down in history at Western Kentucky, and I'm pretty lucky to be sitting here as a coach and not only coach them as great players, but they're great individuals."

Sports Reporter Tyler Mansfield can be reached at 270-935-0007 and tylermansfield@yahoo.com. Follow him on Twitter @TylerMansfield.

Signee Banton playing in Bowling Green Saturday

BY CAMERON BROWN
HERALD.SPORTS@WKU.EDU

WKU basketball fans will finally have the opportunity to get a sneak peek at three-star signee guard Dalano Banton this weekend, who will be playing in the third annual Wes Strader Schoolboy Classic at Warren Central High School.

Banton and his Redemption Christian Academy (Massachusetts) teammates will play in the first game of the event on Saturday - the classic comes just a few weeks after the legendary "Voice of the Hilltoppers" passed away.

The six-foot-six Canadian native is a point guard whose size leads to many mismatches at his position and a problem for many opponents. Banton turned down offers from Kansas State, Massachusetts and Minnesota before signing his national letter of intent with the Hilltoppers.

"We are getting a very talented young man that has a great understanding for how to play," WKU men's basketball head coach Rick Stansbury said when Banton signed. "He's got great size and length for a perimeter player, but also has a great feel for how to score and how to facilitate. There's no question he has a great future

ahead of him, and we're excited to have him as part of our program."

Banton is currently ranked as the 168th best player in the nation and the No. 32 point guard, according to the 2018 247 Sports composite. He was initially a part of the 2019 class before reclassifying as a 2018 prospect so he could come to college a year early. He was previously ranked the No. 17 player at his position in the 2019 class.

Banton and Redemption Christian Academy will open up the classic at 10:30 a.m. Saturday with Cooper High School out of the ninth region. The Jaguars currently have the second-best record in that region with a mark of 18-5, and Cooper made it to the championship of the boys' Sweet Sixteen basketball tournament last season in March before losing to eventual state champion Bowling Green 67-56.

Following the opening game featuring Banton, there will be three other games in the classic honoring Strader. John Hardin will play Butler Traditional at Noon, Owensboro Catholic will play Fern Creek at 1:30 p.m. and Warren Central will play Mercer County at 3 p.m.

Reporter Cameron Brown can be reached at 270-577-1699 and cameronbrown647@yahoo.com. Follow him on Twitter at @Cameron_Brown_3

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Student Workshop Series

Thurs. Feb. 1 | 5:00 p.m.

Leila Watkins **How to Write an Abstract**
Honors College and International center 2007

Thurs. March 8 | 5:00 p.m.

Leyla Zhuhadar **How to Visualize Research Data**
Grise Hall 236

Wed. March 7 | 5:00 p.m.

Rodney King **How to Make a Poster**
Honors College and International center 2001
OR Enakshi Roy **How to Give a Talk**
Honors College and International center 2007



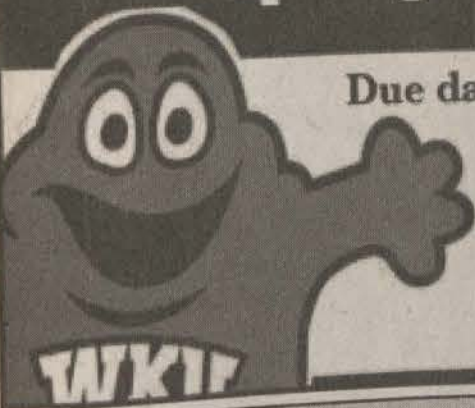
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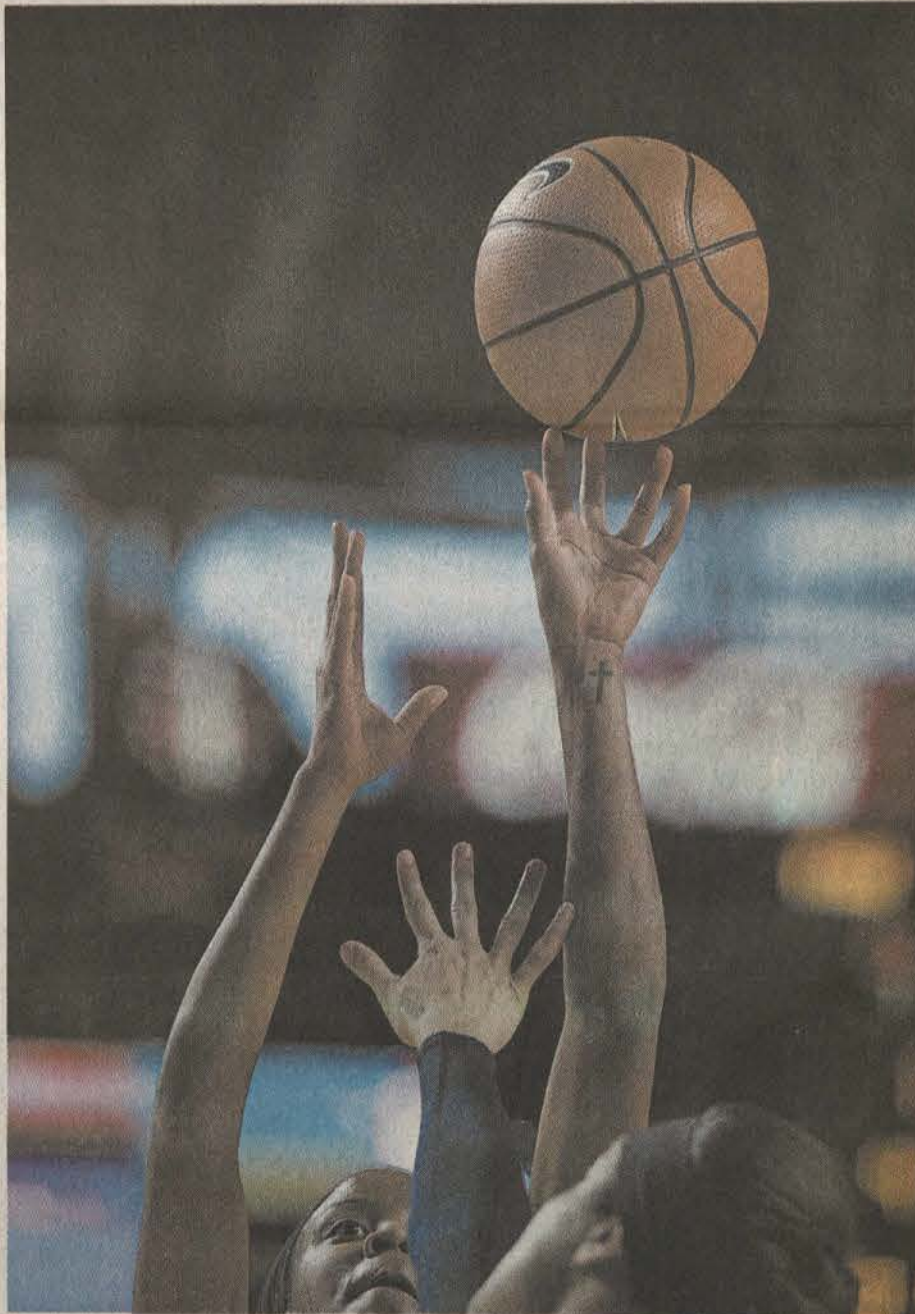
SHABAN ATHUMAN • HERALD

WKU Guard Whitney Creech (5) drives the ball during the Lady Toppers 82-63 win over Florida Atlantic on Feb. 3 at Diddle Arena. Creech finished the game with two steals in her 27 minutes on the court.



SHABAN ATHUMAN • HERALD

WKU Guard Sherry Porter (22) looks to make a pass during the Lady Toppers 82-63 win over Florida Atlantic on Saturday Feb. 3 at Diddle Arena.



SHABAN ATHUMAN • HERALD

ABOVE: WKU Forward Tashia Brown (10) shoots for two as she is defended by FAU Guard Sasha Cedeño (15) during the Lady Toppers 82-63 win over Florida Atlantic on Feb. 3 at Diddle Arena. Brown finished the game with 12 field goals.



TYGER WILLIAMS • HERALD

LEFT: Senior forward Tashia Brown (10) receives a pass during the game against Florida Atlantic Feb. 3 at Diddle Arena.



SHABAN ATHUMAN • HERALD

Head coach Michelle Clark-Heard talks to her team following their 82-63 win over Florida Atlantic on Feb. 3 at Diddle Arena. The Lady Topper scored 36 points on turnovers.

'Phantom Thread:' a series of fashion faux pas

BY MICHAEL BLACKSHIRE

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Paul Thomas Anderson is one of the finest directors living today, and truly one of the most successful auteurs of his generation. But, his latest film may polarize audiences who loved his recent work.

"Phantom Thread," which Anderson acknowledges is a tip of the hat to the 1940 Alfred Hitchcock classic "Rebecca," certainly does not afford the same compliment as a genuine gothic romance as the film was wanting to convey.

"Rebecca" starts with an almost damsel in distress woman who randomly meets an affluent man. She goes on a date with said rich man, then moves into the man's mansion which seems too quick for real life relationship situations.

What makes "Phantom Thread" a far cry from "Rebecca" is the last hour, which turns into scenes from a marriage. Not even the Ingmar Bergman miniseries, but a scene from miserable people's marriages.

Without giving away too much of the latter half of the film, I can say I was less than smitten with Reynolds becoming slightly jealous that his wife Alma was not looking at him at a dinner table. Mind you, Reynolds decided to sit across the other end of the dinner table with several other guests.

In the most cliché set piece for a dialogue scene in an Anderson film, we see our older gentleman protagonist Reynolds Woodcock reading while his wife Alma wants to go out and celebrate New Year's Eve with dancing. Being the old man that Mr. Woodcock is, he sternly says he's not interested when there

is work to be done and from there the younger wife has fun while the older husband gets jealous.

A truly landmark set of scenes comprise the climax, which makes you wonder if Anderson thought the year was 1989 and "Driving Miss Daisy" was his competition for the best picture at the Oscars. The film gives the smallest of details about fashion to the point where one can inquire if Anderson truly studied 1950s fashion during the writing of the screenplay outside of a glance for definition purposes.

The job of the screenwriter is to teach the motion picture audience their characters' world. Woodcock knows fashion, yet hardly wants to talk about the crafting of the fabric. The character of Reynolds Woodcock should fetishize his work as his only vice in the world. Instead Reynolds uses his work as an excuse

for being a male bachelor because he's busy, instead of being entranced by the fabrics. Tight shots of Reynolds poking his thumb while sewing while the Johnny Greenwood score plays would've been an excellent addition to the film.

Reynolds says early in the film, "I'm certain I was never meant to marry. I'm a confirmed bachelor; I'm incurable." This is the point where the audience is lead to believe his obsession with dresses is his only true love, that these inanimate dresses can never love him back, but no human being can ever fulfill the void his dresses do.

Instead, we get a cluster of a pretentious human being who treats his brand as a way to pay the bills. Leslie Manville's character, if you can truly even consider her a real in-depth character, has a demeanor that is truly of a mannequin. Her character never develops into

more than the woman that's supportive of her brother.

The muse of Reynolds is Alma Elson who is brilliantly played by Vicky Krieps. Anderson should've made her the main character and turned Daniel Day Lewis's Woodcock into more of a supportive role. Vicky Krieps' performance and Anderson's cinematography are the best parts of the film.

The shooting on the Panavision Panaflex is executed perfectly on 35mm and I'm saddened that Anderson didn't give himself a director of photography credit. Anderson truly could've made a film with a subversive narrative.

Imagine if Reynolds' Woodcock was less of a stubborn wanker and more of a socially awkward quiet man who obsessed over dresses more than his love life. His character and his surrounding characters are so high class, you hope there's at least one homespun moment in a group of snobby fashion aristocrats.

Reynolds Woodcock never gets the comeuppance he truly deserves in a film where he says his wife has cast a dark shadow over his household, which is a complaint similar to a billionaire upset over paying high taxes. Anderson should have reimagined the film's bourgeoisie exterior with at least a substantial amount of reflective interior.

If someone was looking for Anderson's "Eyes Wide Shut," then they're in the wrong movie. Stanley Kubrick's film dissented the idea of high class and gave the middle class audience their money's worth of acknowledging that the upper class actually have copious amounts of skeletons in their closet. Sadly, Anderson decided to keep those skeletons hidden.

Reporter Michael Blackshire can be reached at 270-745-2655 or michael.blackshireii828@topper.wku.edu.

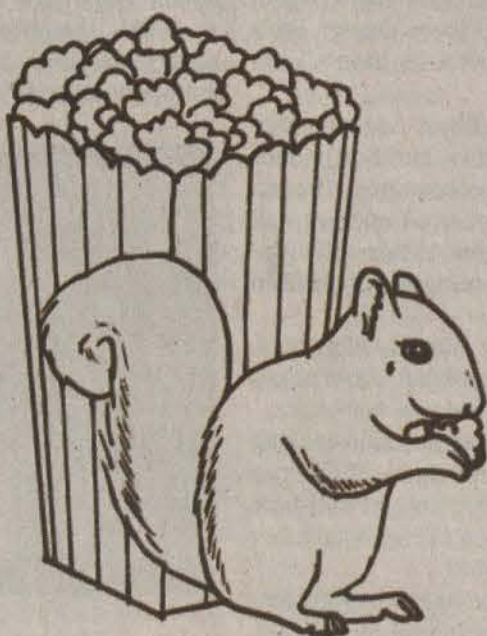


ILLUSTRATION BY EMILY VOGLER • HERALD

'Hostiles:' a journey of hatred and forgiveness

BY CAMERON COYLE

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

When a movie-goer sees a western, they expect cowboys, horses, saloon shoot-outs and maybe a duel at high noon.

"Hostiles" isn't a typical western, but when Scott Cooper's new film begins with a quote stating the American soul is one of an unfazed killer and is followed by a gruesome family murder, then the audience knows what type of movie they're in for.

Toward the end of the 19th century, an Army captain with a self proclaimed hatred for Native Americans (Christian Bale) is chosen to escort a dying Native

American chief (Wes Studi) and his family from his New Mexico prison to his home in Montana.

What follows is a journey filled with contempt, but also flashes of forgiveness and hope which resonate much stronger than they would have in a cliché "feel good" western.

Nearly every character in "Hostiles" is constantly either attempting to bury a begrudging feeling or justify their resentment for someone different than them.

As the party travels through the desolate lands of New Mexico to the lavish forests of Colorado, new realizations are made but old thoughts always threaten to sneak back into their minds.

Every character's sanity is on the brink of fleeting and the farther north

they travel the more dangerous it begins to feel.

While the script for "Hostiles" is strong, it's the magnificent performances that make it shine.

Bale is a world class actor so it's no surprise he displays a monstrous internal struggle beautifully without a hint of overacting. It takes no more than a glance to see Captain Blocker is torn to his core and is looking for stability wherever he can find it, whether it be in his fellow Army officers or his commitment to his mission.

Studi plays the dying Chief Yellow Hawk with poise and sincerity to a degree where the respect he garners oozes off the screen. What begins as a strange cordial hatred between him and Bale slowly forms into an understated

appreciation for one another and this wouldn't be possible if Studi didn't act with so much aplomb.

Cinematographer Masanobu Takayanagi gives the audience beautiful images to look at during this dark, slow-burning movie. Some shots linger for just a second creating a sense of serenity while also allowing the audience to soak in the gorgeous landscape through which the group is traveling.

"Hostiles" is a powerful film about hatred, exoneration and forgiveness with loaded performances. See it if you can.

Reporter Cameron Coyle can be reached at 270-745-2655 or cameron.coyle803@topper.wku.edu.

Hideout replaces High Tops bar and grille

BY SPENCER HARSH

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

It's always exciting for the Bowling Green community when a new bar opens in close proximity to WKU's main campus.

After the sudden closing of High Tops, a sports bar, Hideout opened in the same location as the previous business.

Bill Sullivan, director of Food Services for Hideout, has been helping the business renovate and set up for its opening. Sullivan said the intention of Hideout is to sell food and beverages at reasonable prices.

"I've been in the food service for a long time," Sullivan said. "I believe we can do food right."

Sullivan said that he was brought in from out-of-state by the same housing group that owns the Midtown Apartments, including the building on Center Street that Hideout is located in.

Before the end of 2017, High Tops closed suddenly. Many rumors surround the situation because there was no statement released or coverage of the closing, but Sullivan said there is new management and things will be done very differently.

"If you make a mistake, you fix it," he said.

Sullivan said many parts of the sports bar have been redone, including the menu, bathrooms, bar and tap wall. He said the tap wall will have 47 taps with domestic, craft beers and two taps for wine.

"We just want to have a clean, fun environment," Sullivan said. "I think that's what we are building."

Staff will wear red on WKU game

days and the menu has been made with students in mind, Sullivan said.

Sullivan said when choosing the name for the business, he and his staff were just coming up with names. He said they had a few choices, but ended up really liking "Hideout."

Sullivan said he also hopes to see the business not only be college student-friendly, but also family-friendly.

"We're a staff, community and student-friendly place," Sullivan said. "We'll take care of customers first."

Hideout Service Manager Sarah Jackson said she is excited for the opportunity that Hideout has with the Bowling Green community.

"We want people to come in here and feel invited and welcome," Jackson said.

Jackson said she sees her position at Hideout as a way to give back to the Bowling Green community. She said that there are a lot of unknowns surrounding the previous business, but she is excited that Hideout has a new staff and support system, particularly from Bill Sullivan.

"Bill has got great ideas and is very knowledgeable with what he does," Jackson said.

Jackson said she's also excited for all the new customers, including the WKU student body, and that she's excited to "see all the new faces come in."

Jackson said she thinks the reputation that High Tops developed won't really affect what the Hideout will be doing.

"We're hoping that when people come in here, they know it's completely different," she said.

According to the Hideout menu, which is still being finalized, there will be daily specials with tacos, burgers, and pizzas all starting at \$1.



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

Hideout, Bowling Green's newest bar, will be moving in to the previous site of High Tops on Center Street. Hideout opened Feb. 2, just in time for the super bowl weekend.

"We know students don't always have a whole lot of money, so we made our menu with that in mind," Sullivan said.

Specials for WKU students and military personnel are also in the works, but nothing is "set in stone," Jackson said.

WKU Junior Chris Lau, a resident of the Midtown apartments, said High Tops closing suddenly was a shock to him because he saw that the sports bar was usually busy.

"Seeing it close was kind of a surprise," Lau said.

Because High Tops was open for less than a year, Lau said he thought Hideout should be able to "rebrand" the building pretty easily because High Tops wasn't really established long

enough to have a strong following.

"I like the food a little more and I think it will be more successful as a restaurant," Lau said. "I also think it would be cool if they did DJ and live music nights for students."

Lau said that although he is excited for Hideout, he doesn't really get where the name came from. He said that they could have chosen something that had more to do with WKU since they are close to campus.

Hideout opened to the public on Feb. 2, just in time for Super Bowl Sunday.

"Good food, good friends," Sullivan said. "That's what it's all about."

Reporter Spencer Harsh can be reached at 270-745-6291 and spencer.harsh755@topper.wku.edu.

Alumna aspires to be on TV show "Survivor"

BY LAUREL DEPPEN

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

After herniating two disks in her back, WKU alumna JoAnna Ehret wasn't able to play golf for 18 months. Despite this, Ehret is currently working for the PGA of America in the Championships Department. Her next challenge: NBC's "Survivor."

A look at Ehret's Twitter account shows she is absolutely committed to becoming the next "sole survivor." An avid fan since the age of 12, Ehret said she has seen every episode.

She first auditioned for the show five years ago and got a call back. After that audition, Ehret was asked to participate in their season "Blood vs. Water." To be involved, she was asked to bring a loved one to compete with her.

Ehret's brother agreed to participate with her. When the "Survivor" production team found out that Ehret planned to compete with her brother, they denied them from participating.

"When I told them that, they rebutted that they don't accept brother/sister teams because people who don't know the backstory or haven't seen the show from episode one, might mistake us for a dating or married couple, and it might be weird," Ehret said.

Still determined, Ehret and her brother decided to try again.

"My brother and I submitted another

video together anyway hoping that our totally epic audition video, which it was, would help them change their mind ... but it obviously didn't," she said.

This didn't stop Ehret. She has since submitted two more audition videos and traveled to live auditions. Though she still hasn't received another call back, she has decided to take to Twitter in the hopes of gaining attention from the show.

Using hashtags such as #PutMeInJeff and #365TweetsToJeff, Ehret hopes to gain some attention for her cause.

"I know he has no decision-making in the casting, but I figure if I get on the 'Survivor' radar, I might still have a snowball's chance of getting another call back," Ehret said.

Ehret doesn't see her "Survivor" ambitions ending anytime soon. Competing on the show has been a dream of hers since she was a teenager.

"I can remember sitting on the couch as a teenager thinking, 'Wow. I could live like that for the rest of my life,' meaning living off of the land, building a shelter out of my natural resources, and hunting and scavenging for food," Ehret said.

Even though Ehret can't yet add "sole survivor" to her resume, she has still accomplished many other things in her lifetime.

Ehret was born and raised in Eagan, Minnesota. After receiving a golf schol-

arship, Ehret moved to Bowling Green which began her "migration south." At WKU, she majored in interactive advertising and minored in sales and communications.



PHOTO OF JOANNA EHRET

"Being a student athlete isn't always easy," Ehret said of being on the golf team at WKU. "Trying to balance a fierce passion for success in your sport as well as success in the classroom ... but my teammates and the Athletic Advisory staff at WKU were always there to help us stay on track to be the best student athletes possible."

Ehret was injured in the spring of her junior year. Doctors told her she would never be able to play golf again, but during her fifth year at school, she

was able to continue her scholarship eligibility.

Megan Pendergraff has been friends with Ehret for 12 years. They played on the WKU golf team together and were roommates in college and while living in Florida.

"Seeing JoAnna fight through her back injury was a true testament of just who she is," Pendergraff said. "She never wanted to miss playing golf so she fought and trained hard and she still plays at a high level."

Though she said she still experiences back pain, Ehret golfs regularly with friends and colleagues. She currently works for the PGA of America in the Championships Department where she travels to all major PGA championships. Her responsibilities include scoring, pairing players, and giving starting time information to media outlets.

"It is definitely the most fulfilling job that I have had in the Golf Industry thus far," Ehret said. "I see myself staying at the PGA of America for a very long time."

Ehret currently lives in Jupiter, Florida with her husband and her dog Kona. When she's not working or enjoying "Survivor," she enjoys weight lifting and doing chalkboard artwork.

Features reporter Laurel Deppen can be reached at 270-745-6291 and laurel.deppen774@topper.wku.edu.

Derby Princess focuses on community, giving back

BY LAUREL DEPPEN

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Whether she's spending her day at Davies County High School interning or serving as a board member for Cinderella's Closet of Western Kentucky, Katie Bouchard always has something to do. She is currently the reigning Miss Jefferson County and will be competing for Miss Kentucky in the summer. To add to her already packed resume, Bouchard was crowned a Kentucky Derby Princess on Jan. 9.

Owensboro senior Bouchard has

been competing in pageants since she was 13. She said being involved with the Kentucky Derby Festival Royal Court was similar to her pageant roots, but it has differences too. She compared her Kentucky Derby Festival audition experience to applying for a job.

Bouchard had previously applied for the title twice before.

"Hopefully third time's the charm, which it ended up being," Bouchard said.

Members of the Kentucky Derby Royal Court serve as ambassadors for the city of Louisville and for the Kentucky Derby Festival. To be appointed to the Royal Court, 130 applicants went

through a series of interviews until five were selected.

"I never thought I'd even get a second interview," Bouchard said. "The interview process was stressful and nerve-racking but now I'm just excited."

Barb Wainwright, the vice president of the Derby Princess Program, said Bouchard was an ideal candidate for the title.

"Katie is well-rounded and approachable, self-assured and poised," Wainwright said. "She is an excellent role model for young people. Katie leads by example, does not talk about a need in the community but instead she acts to fix the need."

As a Kentucky Derby Festival Princess, Bouchard will be able to attend over 70 events related to the festival including the Oaks and the Derby.

"I've always wanted to go, you know," Bouchard said. "Living here in Kentucky, that's something everyone should do."

Along with being able to attend the many prestigious events, each member of the court received \$2,000 in scholarships. Half of the money is awarded by the Kentucky Derby Festival Foundation and the other by The Fillies, Inc., a volunteer Derby service.

Both organizations involved in the Royal Court selection place an emphasis on giving back to the community, something Bouchard has a lot of experience with. As a social work major, Bouchard said she has a passion for people and serving them.

"I've always had a passion of giving back and wanting to make a difference in someone's life," Bouchard said. "I grew up in a middle-class home so I never went through struggles like [some] people have been through."

To complete part of her social work major, Bouchard is currently interning at Daviess County High School in their family resource center. She said her

work there has also connected her to other community service opportunities.

Bouchard serves as a board member for Cinderella's Closet of Western Kentucky, an organization that hosts a day for high school juniors and seniors who can't afford to buy prom dresses and helps them prepare for prom.

"It's kind of just a day to make them feel special because most of them have never been able to be pampered like that in their lives," Bouchard said. "Being a part of that organization is an honor and getting to see the girls' faces light up is just an amazing feeling."

Bouchard's community service outreach doesn't stop there. She is a part of numerous organizations, all of which place an emphasis on helping people in need.

Her platform as a candidate for Miss Kentucky is "Spreading the Gift of Sight Around the World." Working with the Kentucky Lions Eye Foundation, she collects used eyeglasses to be refurbished and sent to developing countries. She has collected these glasses since she was 16 years old and now has collected over 10,000 pairs. Along with this, Bouchard will travel to different schools and give vision screenings to children who can't afford them.

Bouchard said she recognized her passion for helping those in need as early as elementary school.

"Seeing kids struggle and having to go to the Family Resource Center for basic needs like clothing or food at home—I never had to go through those struggles," she said. "Growing up in an at-risk school was eye opening to me... that made me want to reach out and be able to make a difference in their life."

Features reporter Laurel Deppen can be reached at 270-745-6291 and laurel.deppen774@topper.wku.edu.

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Annual Dance Project to be performed this weekend

BY SARAH YAACOUB

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Every fall, students in WKU's dance program independently choreograph and submit routines to the department faculty. A select group of submissions is chosen to be performed at the Dance Project concert, which this year will run from Feb. 9 to Feb. 11.

The roles are open to all students currently enrolled in a dance class at the university, regardless of major. Many of the participants are majoring in dance, but others are studying musical theatre or other subjects.

The performance's student choreog-

raphers have been preparing for the event for quite a while, with most beginning the planning process in early fall or earlier. Dancers have also been rehearsing their roles for some time, sharpening their skills in order to showcase their best work for the concert this month.

"The event is extremely important to student dancers," Nashville senior Hannah McCarthy said. "It gives us a chance to express our artistic voices in a public setting."

McCarthy is a dance and journalism double major and former Herald features editor who is working both on dance and choreography for the upcoming concert. She currently works for the Talisman. This is her fourth

year participating in the Dance Project in some capacity, and she said that to her, "expression through movement performance" is critical to letting her voice be heard.

Beyond providing an outlet to the dancers, the Dance Project acts as a creative display for the work of choreographers.

"It gives students an opportunity to be exposed to new choreography while also giving young choreographers more experience," Mt. Juliet, Tennessee, senior Miriam Gaines said.

Gaines has been involved with The Dance Project since her freshman year, first as a dancer, then as a choreographer, and now, the student director. She said the event is valuable to the

students of the dance program because it "provides [them] the opportunity to expand their choreographic skills, express their artistic freedom and work with their peers."

Tickets to see the Dance Project are \$6 each and are available on wku.showare.com or at the door, although seating is limited. Performances will be held Feb. 9 at 8 p.m., Feb. 10 at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Feb. 11 at 3 p.m. The concert will take place in the Gordon Wilson Hall Lab Theatre.

Features reporter Sarah Yaacoub can be reached at 270-745-6291 and sarah.yaacoub214@topper.wku.edu. Follow her on Twitter at @sarahyaacoub1.

GARCIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C4

Agency. Marco received his PADI certification when he was 10, though he had been scuba diving for a year by then. He swam with whale sharks and turtles, explored shipwrecks and has even survived his boat being hit by a bolt of lightning.

Needless to say, Garcia has been shaped profoundly by his experiences, said his mother Amy Glick-Garcia.

"Moving around and being exposed to all different people, cultures and school systems has really made him accept people as people, which is an invaluable skill," she said.

Beyond hands-on experience, Garcia has also acquired skills that can be utilized daily. He is fluent in Spanish and

Swahili, which inspired him to enroll in Arabic 101 this semester.

Whether it be ocean adventures or language skills, the experiences Marco Garcia has acquired throughout his life will surely stick with him forever. Even with the diverse array of places he has lived, he claims there is not one that he loved more than another.

"Honestly, I don't really have a favorite place," he said. "I love all the places I've lived in for different reasons. They are all very unique and have their flaws, but I consider them all home. Even Margarita, Venezuela, where we were attacked by monkeys."

Features reporter Noah Moore can be reached at 270-745-6291 and noah.moore786@topper.wku.edu. Follow him on Twitter at @noah_moore18.



HUNTER HALLORAN • HERALD

Gatton Academy student Marco Garcia was born in Africa and has since lived in two other countries and has visited six of the seven continents. Although he is only a senior at Gatton, he has been around the world and consumed cultural knowledge many never have to opportunity to have.

PARKER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE C4

"I feel like a man," Benji said, speaking about being able to wear a tie on Boys 2 Men Fridays. "I always dress up in my tie."

On account of schoolwide and outside support for this addition to the Boys 2 Men program, Clark has worked alongside Parker-Bennett instructional assistant Latoya Marks to create a similar program for the girls at Parker-Bennett, called Girls With Pearls, which operates almost exactly as the

boy's program, except that it allows girls the opportunity to wear pearls on Friday instead of a tie.

"If the kids dress for success, if they look good, they feel good, they act good, they are good," Clark said. "If you see a woman in pearls, you respect that just like you see a man in a tie. You respect that."

In regards to outside support for Boys 2 Men Fridays and Girls With Pearls, Chicago senior Chris Wilborn of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity has helped tie ties for and take pictures of students who participate in both programs for five months.

"I just want to give back to the kids," Wilborn said. "I want the kids to see a positive role model."

Such outside support includes that of other local elementary schools, including Bristow Elementary School, which plans to instate its own Boys 2 Men program this Friday, Feb. 9.

Clark hopes to eventually extend the program to five other independent elementary schools in Bowling Green.

"A program like this can have a positive impact on the whole city of Bowling Green," Clark said.

As for why he decided to return to his former elementary school and work to

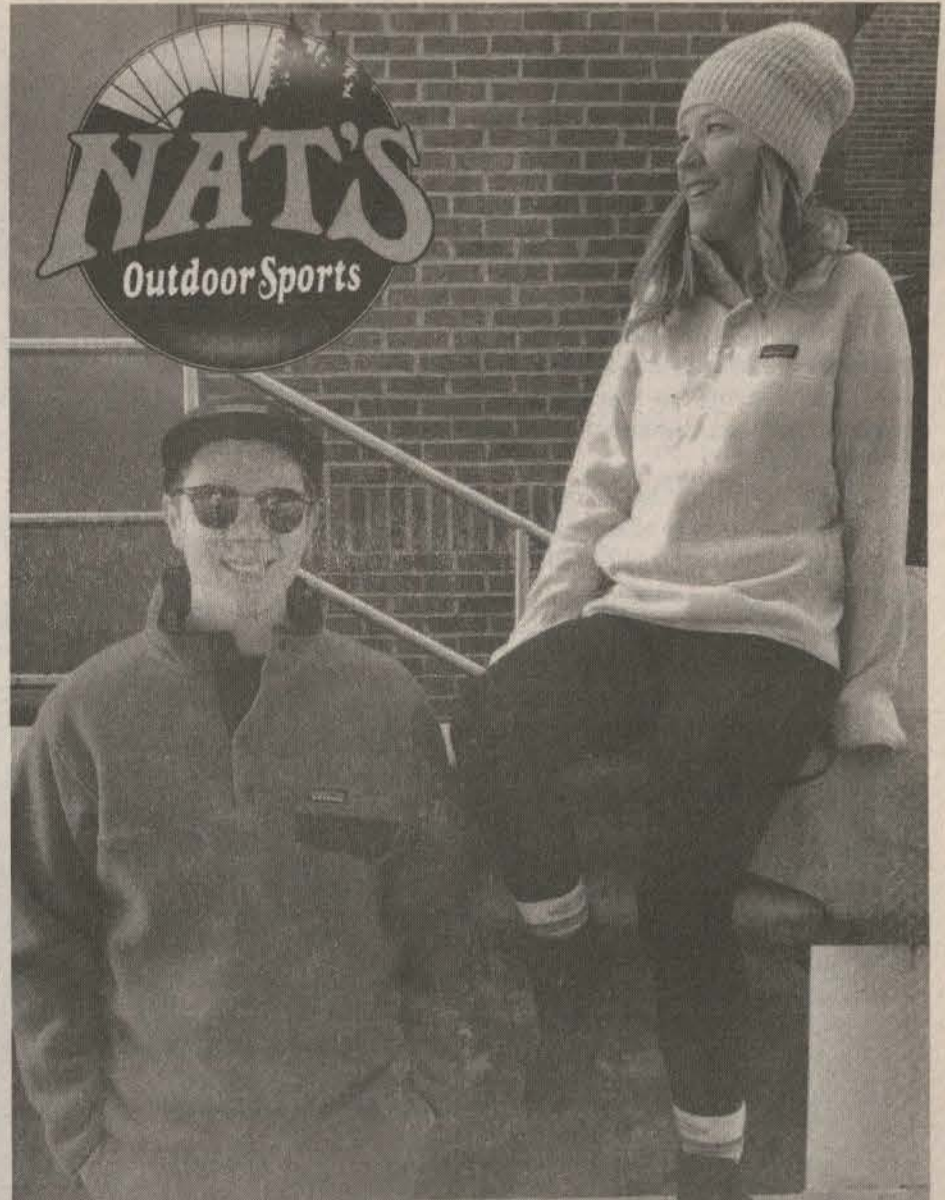
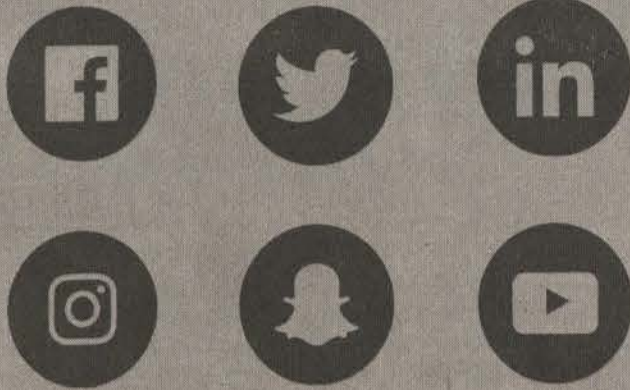
develop the Boys 2 Men and Girls With Pearls programs, Clark said he just wants to pick up where Parker-Bennett's past instructors and mentors left off.

"To kind of come back into this area and be able to do things that I'm doing is pretty special," Clark said. "You don't see a lot of young men come back to their community and, for one, work, but also take pride in giving back."

Reporter Griffin Fletcher can be reached at 270-745-2655 and griffin.fletcher398@topper.wku.edu.

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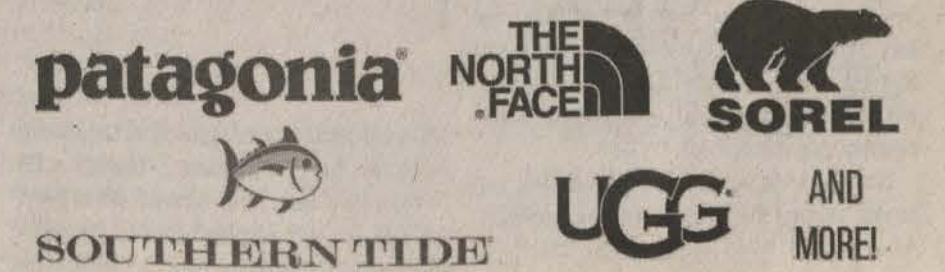


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LIFE



SILAS WALKER • HERALD

George Kibawa, 8, watches a volunteer work on his tie at Parker-Bennet-Curry Elementary School Friday, Feb. 2. The goal of the program is to motivate responsible behavior inside and outside of the classroom by giving them the incentive of wearing ties. The Boys 2 Men leadership program at Parker-Bennet is headed by Tyreon Clark. "If they look good, and feel good, they can behave good as well," he said.

BOYS TO MEN

Elementary students develop leadership skills

BY GRIFFIN FLETCHER

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

The students of Parker-Bennet-Curry Elementary School sat in rows along the school's gymnasium floor for the daily assembly on Friday morning, waiting to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, led each day by a fellow student, and listening to their principal speak about weekly student academic achievements.

Though most students remained seated for the entirety of the assembly, a select few keep to the side of the rows of students, each waiting to be fitted for a tie.

As part of the school's Boys 2 Men leadership program, boys who display good behavior throughout the school week are given the opportunity to wear a tie on Friday, signifying maturity and leadership.

"It gives [students] a goal to shoot for," Parker-Bennet Elementary Head Principal Delvagus Jackson said. "It's about building character."

Initially developed in 2014 by previous Parker-Bennet instructor, now assistant principal of Adairville Elementary School, Jonathan Stovall,

the Parker-Bennet Elementary Boys 2 Men club was taken over by Bowling Green native and Parker-Bennet alumnus Tyreon Clark, who serves as student relationship coordinator at Parker-Bennet-Curry, last year.

"Boys 2 Men is a leadership program designed to teach young boys how to be positive members in the community and in the school," Clark said. "Our focus is to guide these young men to success inside the classroom and outside the classroom."

The club engages students in various leadership activities, such as Boys 2 Men Fridays, a development headed by Clark, where young male students who behave appropriately throughout the week and choose to wear a collared shirt on Friday are given a tie to wear for the entire school day, so long as they continue to behave maturely while wearing the tie.

"It's a pride thing," Clark said, noting Parker-Bennet's behavioral expectations of every student wearing a tie. "You wear a tie with pride."

With student participation ranging between 20 to 70 students each Friday, depending on students' weekly behavior and accessibility to shirts, Clark said students and parents alike express excitement for the weekly occurrence,



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Tyreon Clark talks to the Boys 2 Men leadership kids before they go to class at Parker-Bennet-Curry-Elementary School on Friday Feb. 2. Clark was raised in Bowling Green and went to Parker Bennet as a child. "You don't see a lot of young men that come back and give back to their community," he said. Clark is also expanding the program to other schools in the district. "I want these kids to have better than I had."

referencing certain parents who bring their children to school every Friday already dressed in shirt and tie.

Fifth-grader Benji Rodriguez was one such student who came to school

this past Friday already dressed in a tie and sport coat.

"I feel like a man," Benji said, speak-

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Gatton senior has impressive international experience

BY NOAH MOORE

HERALD.FEATURES@WKU.EDU

Gatton Academy senior Marco Garcia has done more in 18 years than some older adults do in their entire lifetime. And yes, that includes being attacked by Venezuelan monkeys.

Many people's goals in life are to travel the world, explore global cultures and gain experience being abroad, but not many have this accomplished by the age of 18 like Garcia has. Garcia has lived in three countries, ridden on the back of the world's oldest turtle, witnessed a tsunami and been to all continents except Antarctica.

Garcia was born in Seychelles, a small island off the coast of eastern Africa, and lived there from 2000 to

2010. He then moved to Venezuela, where he lived for another two years.

"We moved from Seychelles to Venezuela because my father was diagnosed with Lymphoma and the Venezuelan

government would pay for treatment because he is a citizen," Garcia said.

"Two years later, we moved from Venezuela to the United States because my parents divorced and my mother is

from Kentucky, and that's how I ended up here."

Garcia is the oldest of his siblings. He has two brothers and a sister and said he is very close with his family,

"Moving to a country that spoke a language I didn't know and having to go to school there is probably another big challenge I faced."

Gatton Academy senior
MARCO GARCIA

mainly due to their constant moving from place to place. Garcia said was one of the hardest parts about his grand adventures, along with his father developing cancer.

"Moving to a country that spoke a language I didn't know and having to go to school there is probably another big challenge I faced," said Garcia. "I can't really say that one experience shaped me more than another though because I feel that all of my experiences come together to shape me together."

Despite the challenges his life has posed, his diverse experiences more than make up for it. Garcia has done everything from living on a 40 foot genoa rigged sloop, which is a type of sailboat, for an entire year, to visiting the Amazon rainforest.

Fear is not a familiar emotion for Garcia, as many of his experiences come due to his father, a worker for the United Nations Fishing Regulating

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